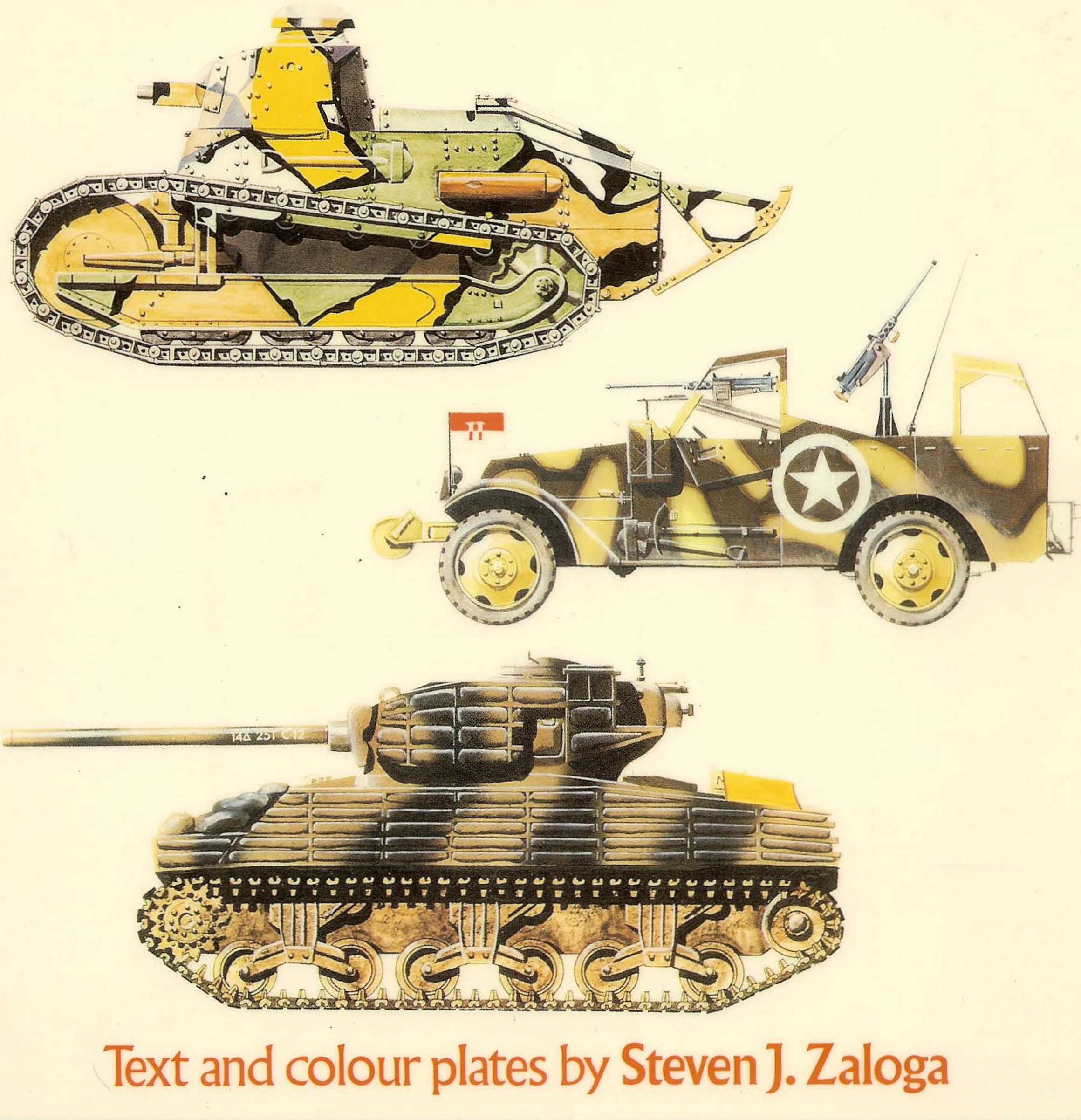
OSPREY · VANGUARD 39

US ARMOUR CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKINGS 1917-45



Text and colour plates by **Steven J. Zaloga**

VANGUARD SERIES

EDITOR: MARTIN WINDROW

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STEVEN J. ZALOGA

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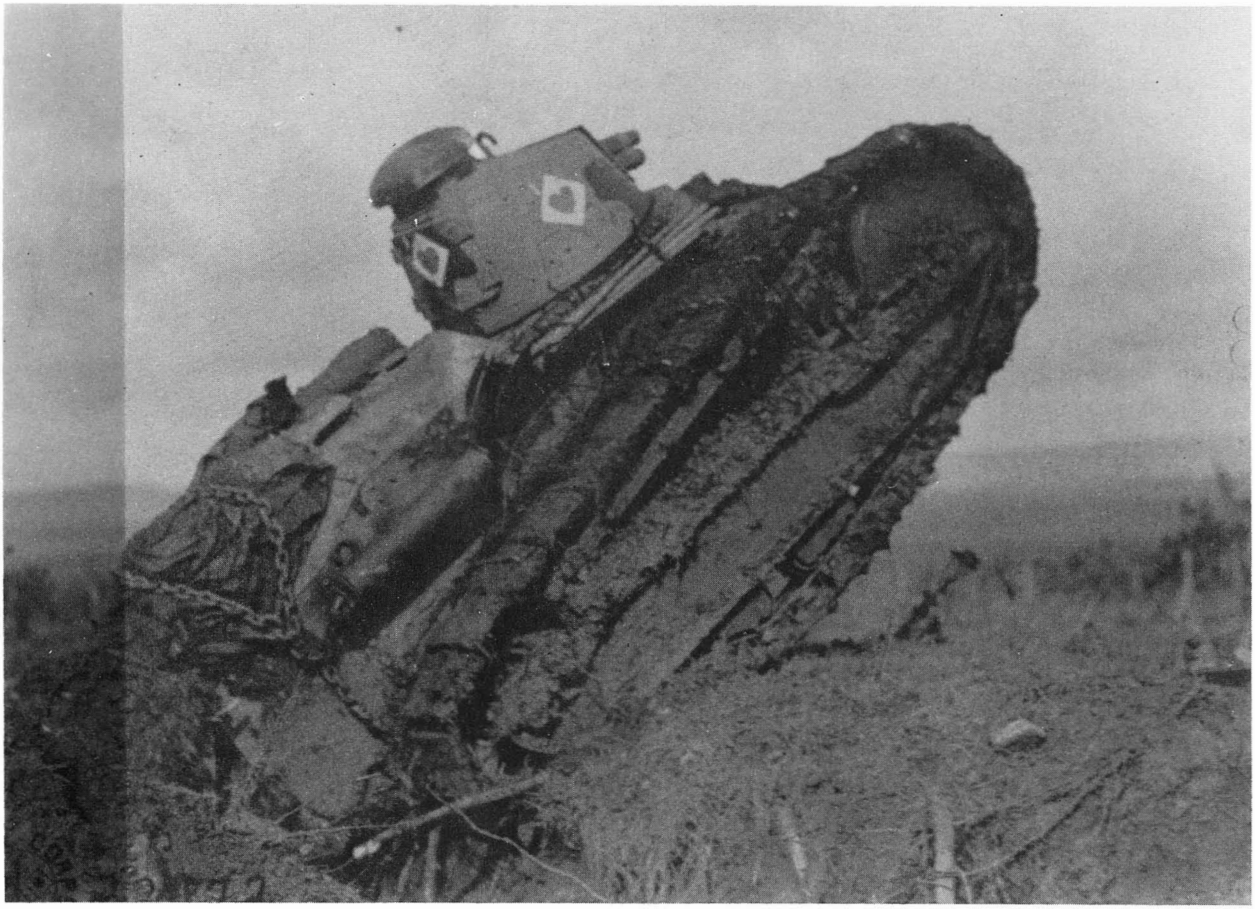
Author's Note

The subject of US AFV markings is a vast one. This short book is an attempt to present a basic overview of the subject. However, it cannot possibly cover every Army memorandum or order affecting marking patterns, nor the many unofficial variations in insignia and colouring that took place in combat. Special emphasis has been given here to actual combat markings, rather than the markings used during peacetime service or used by training units in CONUS (Continental United States). Part of the difficulty in dealing with this subject is that American soldiers are notoriously lax about observing Army regulations in the field, especially those involving a rather insignificant matter such as vehicle markings. An attempt is made here to contrast the regulations with the actual practice.

This book could not have been prepared without the assistance of many other students of the subject, and the author would like to thank especially David List, James Loop, Shep Paine, Phil Dyer and George Balin for their many contributions to this work. All photos used here are US Army Signal Corps unless otherwise noted.

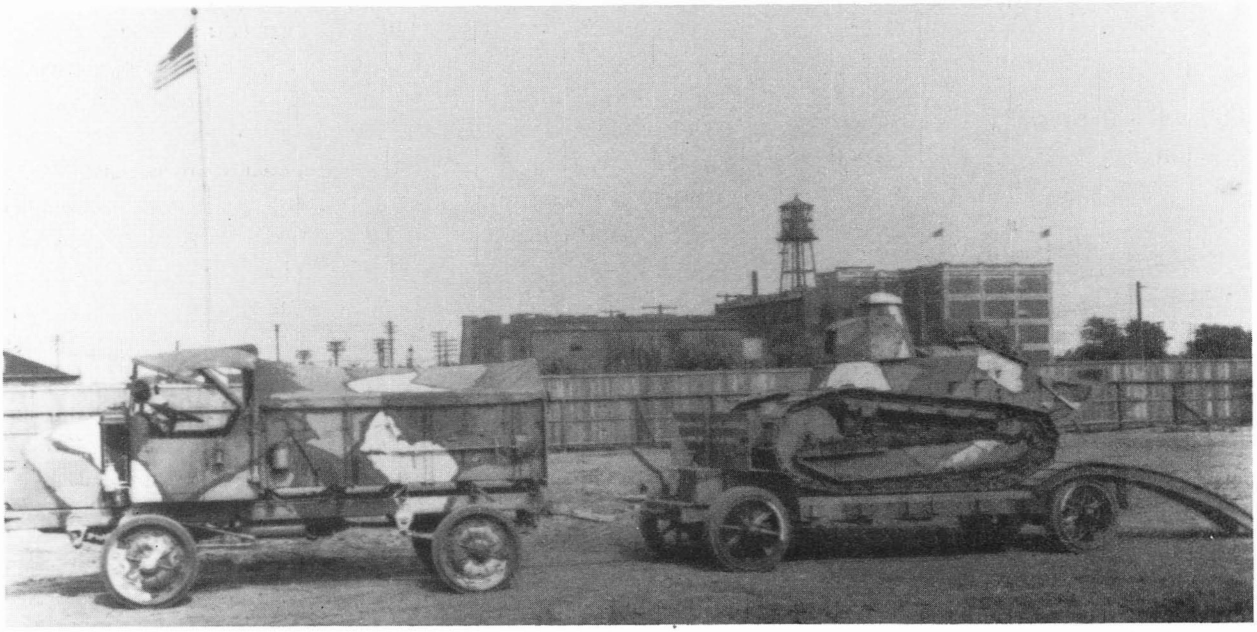


Renault FT light tank (No. 2367) of the 2nd Platoon, Co.C, 327th Tank Battalion, 1st AEF Tank Brigade at St. Mihiel, France, on 12 September 1918. The markings consist primarily of a white diamond, indicating Co. C, and a red heart, indicating the 2nd Platoon. The small number '1' is the vehicle number within the platoon. These tanks remained in their original French camouflage.

World War 1

Prior to the Great War, US military vehicles had traditionally been painted in Olive Drab (OD) or battleship grey. US Olive Drab is a very dark olive green with a slightly brownish hue. The easiest way of mixing it has been the combination of orange oxide (rust orange) with charcoal black. The colour has varied depending on the mixture and type of pigments. Too much red oxide results in a more distinctly brown colour; too much yellow results in an olive green. The appearance of the colour has varied enormously, depending not only on the pigments used, but on their durability. When fresh, the colour has been a very dark brownish-green. However, various examples have faded to a field drab colour, to a pale olive green, or even to a distinctly purplish-brown colour on occasion. Until the 1920s the colours were mixed by units on the basis of Quartermaster Corps instructions. Although prepared paint became available in that decade, this did not altogether ensure uniformity due to manufacturers' variations. Officially, all tactical (combat) vehicles were to be finished in lustreless (matt) Olive Drab, and administrative vehicles in CONUS in gloss Olive Drab.

The first instructions governing the use of colours and markings on US vehicles in France with the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) were issued in a memorandum by the Chief of Quartermaster, AEF, on 11 September 1917. This ordered the use of olive drab paint as the basic vehicle colour, and provided details on the use of white lettering for vehicle markings and serial numbers. This mem-



A Six-Ton Special Tractor being towed by a Mack prime mover in the USA in 1920. This shows the gaudy five-colour Ordnance camouflage scheme, used to a limited extent in World War I.

orandum was overridden by Bulletin No. 90 of the GHQ, AEF, on 11 November 1918, which changed the earlier instructions in a number of details and amplified other matters. The form of unit marking adopted by the US Army in World War I was a series of black geometric signs, selected individually by each unit with the approval of the Director, Motor Transport Corps. The various instructions also envisioned the use of multi-colour camouflage. The most detailed exposition of US camouflage patterns and colours was covered in *Painting Instruction for Camouflaging of Ordnance Vehicles*, published in October 1918 on the basis of experimental work by the 40th Engineers (Camouflage). It is believed that the patterns and colours were heavily influenced by French practices of the period. The basic colours involved were white, yellow, green, cream or brown, applied with irregular black lines in between. The use of such camouflage painting, ironically, was rescinded in the AEF in June 1918 by GHQ, AEF, due to paint scarcity, and a conviction that it did little good. However, camouflage painting of equipment continued in the US; an example on a Six-Ton Special Tractor (the US-built Renault FT-17 tank) is shown in the plates.

Most of these instructions were largely ignored by the Tank Corps units in France. During the war, three light tank battalions with FT-17s and one heavy tank battalion with British Mark V tanks took part in the fighting of 1918. These tanks were delivered and remained in the colours of their original countries: the FT-17s were delivered in French camouflage, and the British Mark Vs in a monotone scheme, believed to be a dark bronze green. The actual colours of the French scheme are not certain. They were evidently garish, as George Patton, commander of the light tank battalions, commented on their bright shades, but noted that the scheme was surprisingly effective. It is the author's belief that they were finished in a manner very similar to the official US Ordnance scheme.

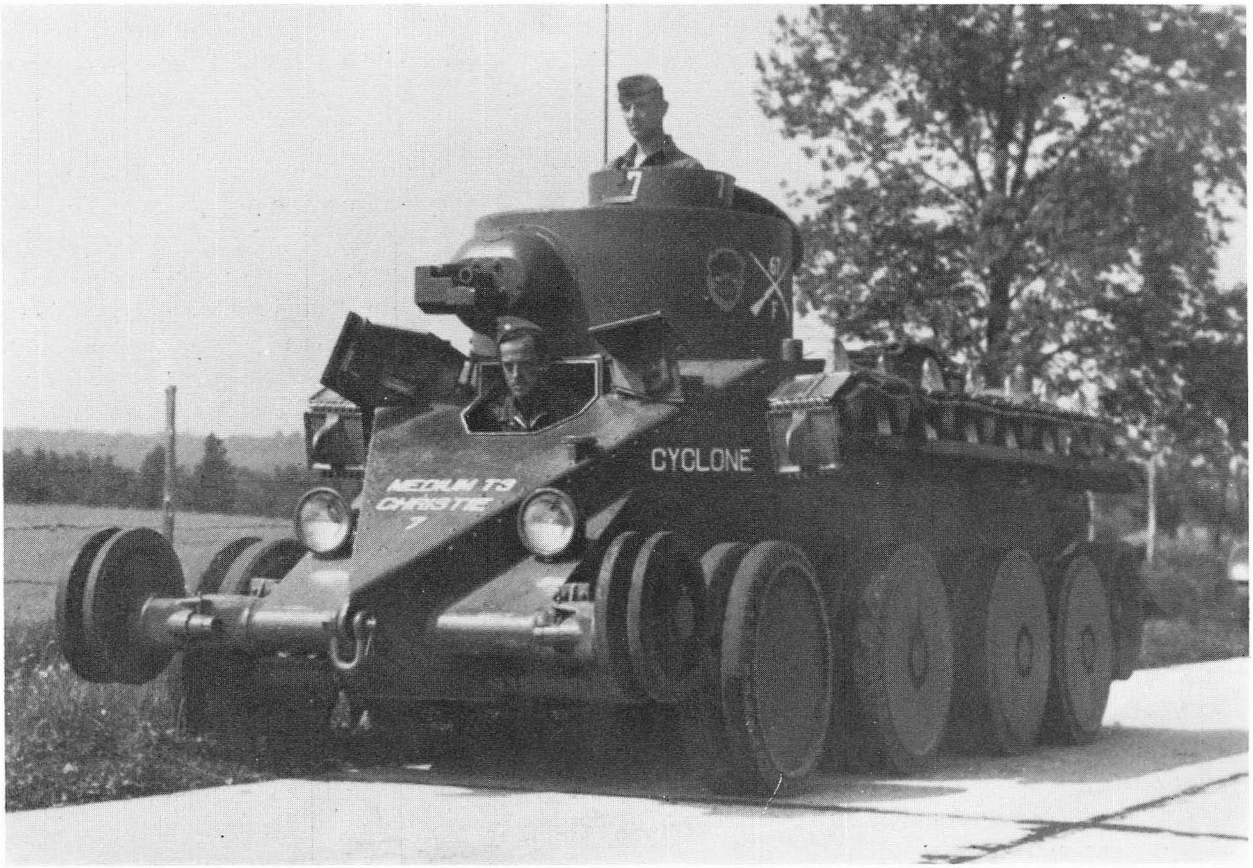
As the light tank battalions were trained by the French, not surprisingly they adopted French-style unit markings. These consisted of a white geometric design indicating company. The 1st Company used a 35cm circle, the 2nd Co. a 30cm square and the 3rd Co. a 45cm-high triangle. Each tank section (platoon) had a card symbol: 1st, a spade; 2nd, a heart; 3rd, a diamond; and 4th, a club. The colour of the card symbol was dependent on the battalion colours. The first battalion of a brigade used blue; the second, red; and the third, yellow. In some units a small white numeral was added as the vehicle number. Some vehicles retained remnants of their French serial numbers and other markings.

The Inter-War Years

Following the Armistice the US Army reverted to peacetime practices. The Quartermaster Corps adopted Olive Drab as the standard vehicle colour. Again, tactical vehicles such as tanks were to use lustreless Olive Drab and administrative vehicles were to use gloss Olive Drab. However, many unit commanders desired a 'spit 'n polish' finish on their tanks, and as a result Ordnance authorised in 1928 the use of spar varnish to obtain a glossy finish. Marking patterns were authorised by Army Regulations AR-850-5, published by the Adjutant General. The basic markings consisted of US Army registration numbers, which consisted of the letters USA over a serial, both painted in white in 4in. high letters. Although not mentioned in the regulations, tank serial numbers in this period were generally preceded by the letter 'W' (War Department), which was mandated by Quartermaster Corps regulations after 1926.

Unit insignia consisted of one of two forms. In the case of tanks, the unit insignia could consist of a pair of crossed rifles with the unit number above and the company letter below; in the case of cavalry combat cars, a similar marking featured crossed sabres instead of rifles. The alternate form consisted of a written unit designator, often preceded by the unit crest in colour. The alternate form used a thin white line painted above and below the unit designator. Usually the unit designator was simply an abbreviated form of the unit designation such as '1st Ca. F-22', indicating the 22nd vehicle of F Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment. The Army Regulations were not very clear as to where this insignia was to be carried, and as a result it varied from unit to unit. Some units carried it on the bow, others on the turret front or sides.

A T3 Medium Christie Tank of Co. F, 67th Infantry (Medium Tanks) at Pine Camp, NY, in 1935. This Christie is finished in full AR-850-5 regulation markings. The unit marking on the turret consists of the regimental crest, followed by the arms of service—crossed Infantry rifles—with the regimental number above and the company letter below. The vehicle identification is carried on the bow. Besides these basic markings, the individual vehicle number '7' is carried on the turret cupola and on the bow, and the vehicle name is carried on either side of the hull.

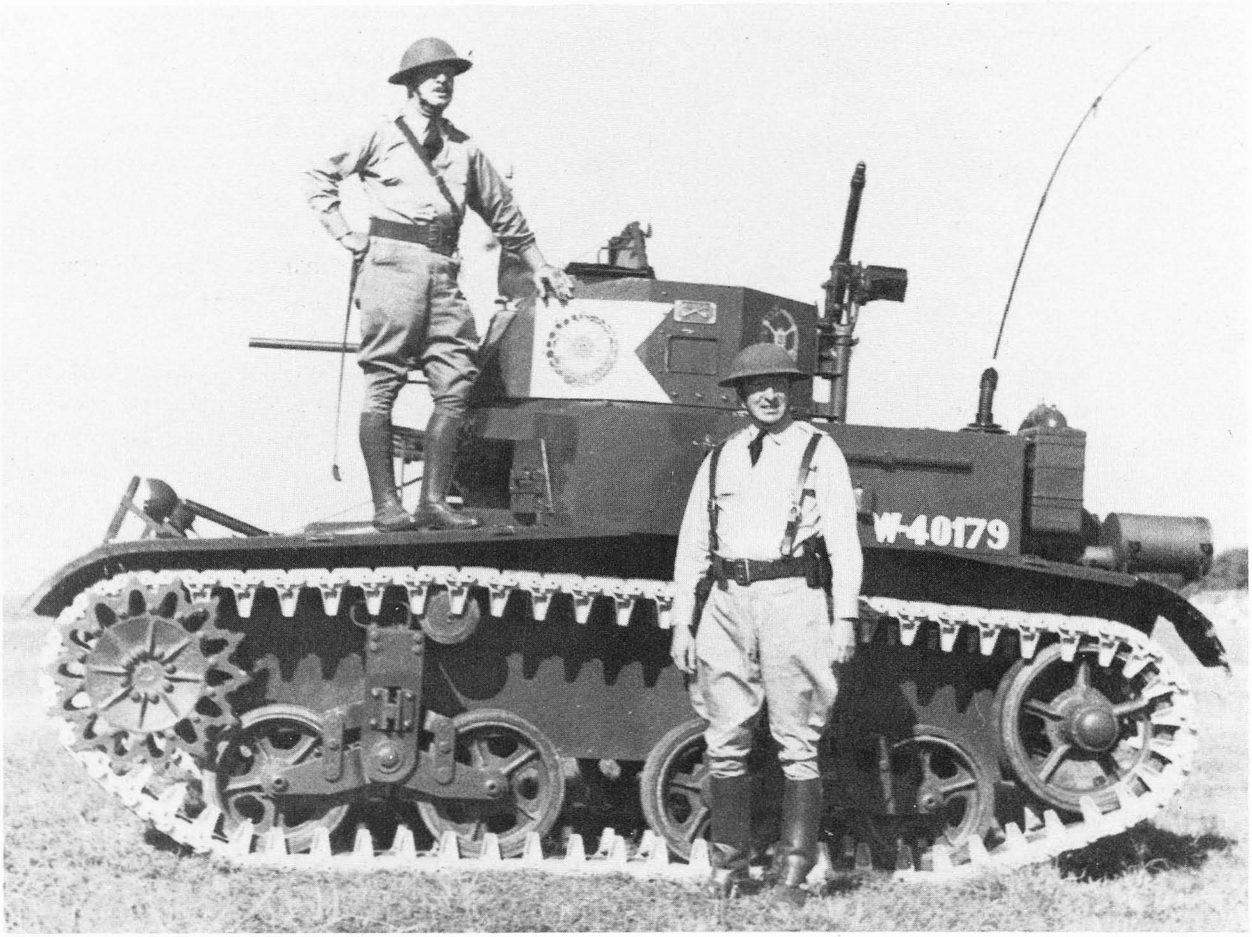


Another marking that was seen for a short time before the Tank Corps was disbanded in 1920 was the Tank Corps insignia, a trisected triangle in red, blue and yellow, symbolising the Tank Corps origins in the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery. Another marking authorised by AR-850-5 during the early 1930s was the vehicle designation. This marking was usually carried on the hull front, a typical example being 'T.1 Combat Car' on a Christie tank. Tanks of the 1931 Mechanized Force used a white rhomboid tank superimposed on a pair of crossed rifles as a unit marking in place of the plainer crossed-rifles insignia of the infantry. There was a considerable amount of variation in tank markings during this period due to the ambiguity of the Army Regulations. Although not actually a marking, most tanks of the period carried a small brass plaque on either side of the turret, bearing crossed rifles for infantry tanks and crossed sabres for cavalry combat cars.

By the mid-1930s, when the US Army finally began to acquire new armoured vehicles, marking patterns began to become more colourful. The Army Regulations specifically authorised the employment of tactical markings at the discretion of unit commanders, and this loophole was enthusiastically exploited to add a little colour.

One of the most evident markings was the command guidon adopted by command combat cars of the cavalry regiments. This was the traditional red/white cavalry guidon, and bore the regimental number on the top segment and the squadron on the bottom. Regimental commanders used an all-white guidon with the regimental crest superimposed. There was quite a variety of other changes in the use of cavalry troop and squadron numbers on these combat cars after 1937, and

M1 Combat Car of the Headquarters of the 13th Cavalry in 1939. Regimental command tanks used a plain white guidon insignia with the regimental crest superimposed. The crest is repeated behind, in the same location as carried on other tanks in the unit. Also evident in this view are the Cavalry plaque on the turret side and the vehicle registration number.

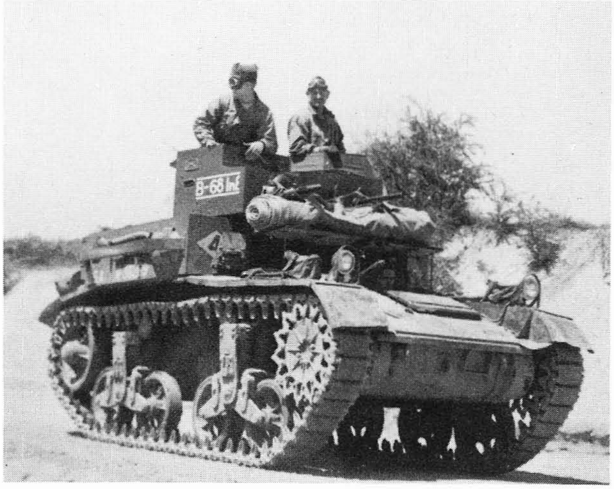


interested readers are referred to the detailed article on the subject by D. P. Dyer in *AFV News*.[1] The 66th Infantry (Light Tanks) also used a complicated set of markings, according to the research of D. P. Dyer. The HQ tanks of the three tank battalion HQs used the old Tank Corps triangle. The three tanks either had a blank triangle, a triangle with the letter 'C', or a triangle with the letter 'S' for the three battalion HQ tanks. In one battalion the triangle was outlined in white and the letters were black; in another, the triangle was outlined in white with white letters; and in the last the triangle was outlined in black with black lettering. The two company command tanks of the three companies in each battalion carried a triangle with outline and numeral colour as per the battalion scheme mentioned above. The triangle was in the company colours of yellow, red or blue. Each of the three platoons used a different symbol: a square (1st), circle (2nd) or diamond (3rd). This insignia was painted in the company colours with outline and numeral colours as per the battalion scheme.

The 68th Infantry (Light Tank) used geometric markings, as did some independent tank battalions. At least one battalion used card symbols, minus the geometric shapes, reminiscent of the World War I pattern.

Prelude to War

Without a doubt, the most complicated and confusing period of US tank markings occurred in the interval between 1939, when the US tank forces began to be re-organised, and America's entry into World War II in December 1941. During this period there was extensive experimentation with the 7th Cavalry Brigade (Mechanized) and the Provisional Tank Brigade, eventually culminating in the formation of the Armored Force and the first Armored Divisions in July 1940. This hustle and bustle was accompanied by a great deal of experimentation in tactical vehicle markings which is difficult to summarise comprehensively. The general trend was away from the staid unit markings of the 1930s towards larger and more visible markings which could help to identify the sub-units of tanks. More tanks were being fitted with radios, so it was necessary for tanks to be able to identify one another at some distance during wargames. Some of the methods included the painting of large troop and squadron numbers on cavalry combat cars, and the use of more prominent geometric insignia on infantry tanks. During this period regimental crests were still retained, especially on the cavalry tanks.



A 'Mae West' (M2A2 Light Tank) of the 3rd Platoon, Co. B, 1st Tank Battalion, 68th Infantry (Light Tanks) at Ft. Benning in April 1940. This tank displays markings fairly typical of the inter-war period. The turret unit designator is an authorised, alternate style to the type seen on the photo here of the T3 Christie tank of the 67th Infantry. The red diamond with black '4' seems to be related in style to the markings adopted by 66th Infantry.

With the consolidation of cavalry and infantry tank units in July 1940 and the formation of the new Armored Divisions, markings began to take on a slightly more uniform appearance. The explicit use of the old cavalry and infantry regimental crests was dropped, and gradually the pre-war form of written unit designators on turret sides was deleted. This hardly implies that there was total uniformity of markings. For example, the 1st Armored Division at Ft. Knox in the autumn of 1941 adopted the Armored Force triangle with an Arabic '1' superimposed as its vehicle marking. On M3 medium tanks this was carried on the front glacis plate, on the hull roof in front of the turret, on the engine deck and on the rear engine access doors. Unit insignia consisted of the company letter–vehicle number (e.g. D-6) carried on the super-

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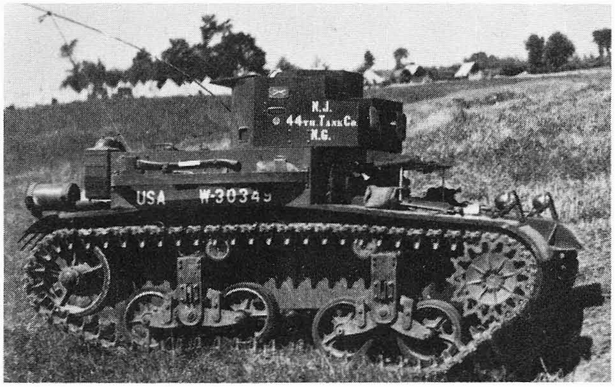
[1] AFV News, Vol. 15 no.2, March 1980



An M2A2 Light Tank of the 44th Tank Company, New Jersey National Guard at DeKalb, NY, in the summer of 1940. This tank shows a variation of the official AR-850-5 regulation markings, lacking the white lines above and below the unit descriptor.

structure front and on the sponson rear surfaces, with the company letter to the left and the number to the right. In contrast, the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas, used a reversal of the contemporary US Army Air Force insignia, i.e. a red roundel with white star and blue centre. This was carried on either side of the hull and on the hull and turret rear. A similar company–vehicle number system was carried on the turret sides. At this time, some companies apparently used a system of coloured broken bands around the lower rim of the turrets. This may have been a form of either regimental or platoon insignia, but details are lacking.

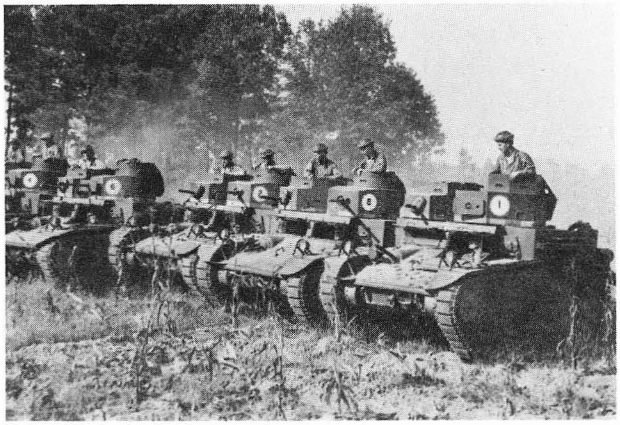
In the autumn of 1940 the Quartermaster Corps began examining various paints to determine how to reduce the visibility of white registration numbers. After experimental use of Dark Earth and Black in November 1940, Blue Drab (medium blue-grey) was chosen, and this was officially mandated in a memorandum from the Adjutant General's office in December 1940. While this was not officially ordered until War Department Circular No. 174 in June 1942, all vehicles ordered since fiscal year 1941 had been marked in this fashion according to contract requirements.

The various memoranda released at this time stressed the use of lustreless Olive Drab, not the glossy finish so popular during the 1930s. The selection of the Blue Drab for vehicle registration numbers was due to the fact that Blue Drab is nearly identical to Olive Drab in tonal value, and so is difficult both to see and to photograph.

Early War Markings

The outbreak of the war prompted the Armored Force to begin a more serious effort to standardise markings. An HQ Armored Force order of 28 January 1942 outlined the marking practices which armoured vehicles were to follow. Markings were to be applied in Air Corps Yellow, No. 4, Lustreless. As a national insignia, a yellow star was adopted. On most tanks, the star was to be applied to the turret side, of at least 22ins. diameter, with a 4in. band running around the turret. The higher unit designation of the unit was to be painted centrally in Olive Drab paint on any stars on vertical surfaces, but not on stars carried on the roof. Corps designations were to appear in Roman numerals, divisional designations in Arabic numerals. The Armored Force School and Replacement Training Center were to use 'AFS' or 'RTC' in the centre of the star. GHQ Reserve Tank Groups were to use an Arabic numeral with the letters 'GP' centred below. These letters were to be 4in. high. Each vehicle was to be named with the first letter of the name corresponding to the company letter. Some samples offered were ANDY GUMP, BLONDIE, DIZZY DEAN and FLASH GORDON. Recon companies were to use names beginning with 'R', and maintenance

'Mae Wests' of the 192nd Tank Battalion during autumn manoeuvres in Arkansas in September 1941, shortly before the battalion was re-equipped and shipped to the Philippines. The markings here consist of a white circle, bordered with a coloured band and with a black number in the centre. The exact meaning of the circle marking is not certain, but it was probably used to distinguish platoons. At the base of the turrets is a two-colour band, probably used to distinguish companies of the battalion by alternating the colours and patterns. Styles that have been noted include this two-colour band, a monochrome continuous band, and a broken white or yellow band.



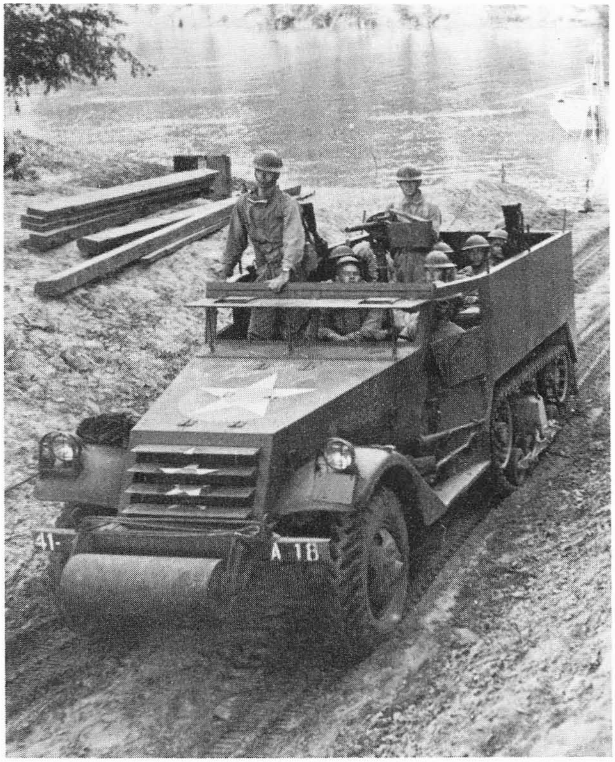
companies, 'M'. The exception was HQ units, which could use any letter except those used by other companies in the division.

In addition, a new system of 'bumper codes' was promulgated to replace the pre-war system of unit markings. These markings were applied fore and aft. Examples of the codes for various units of I Armored Corps are given below:

1ST ARMORED CORPS . . . HQ Co. . . . HQ-15
(I in star) . . . Signal Bn. . . . SG-12
1ST ARMORED DIVISION. . . CCA. . . . CC-A-4
(1 in star) . . . Div. Arty. Cmd. . . . FA-6
Sig. Co. . . . SG-19
Serv. Co. . . . S-21
81st Rcn. Bn. . . . HQ Co. . . . R-HQ-2
A Co. . . . R-A-16
Lt. Tank Co. . . . R-D-17
1st Armd. Regt. . . . HQ Co. . . . 1-HQ-9
Rcn. Co. . . . 1-R-25
Serv. Co. . . . 1-S-8
Maint. Co. . . . 1-M-10
1st Tank Bn. . . . 1-1-3
H Co. . . . 1-H-14
27th Field Arty. Bn. . . . Serv. Battery . . . 27-S-6
B Battery . . . 27-B-9
751st Tank Bn. . . . B Co. . . . 751-B-16
HQ Co. . . . 751-HQ-9

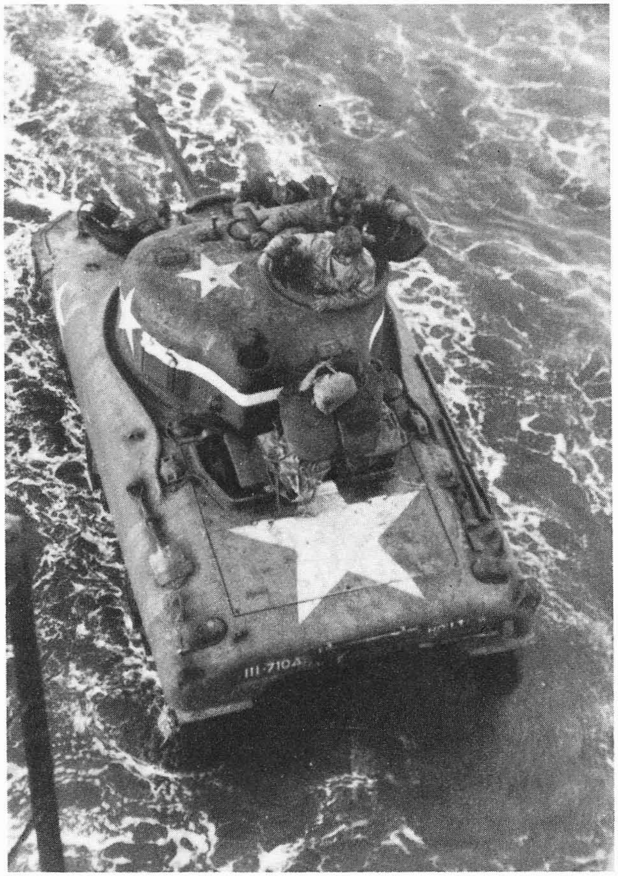
Additional Abbreviations:
Maintenance Co. (Regiment) . . . M
Maintenance Co. (Battalion) . . . O
Engineer Co. or Bn. . . . E
Division Train . . . TN
Supply Bn. . . . Q
Field Artillery . . . FA (unless no F Co.)
Infantry . . . I

The selection of yellow for the national star was a curious choice, as the rest of the Army was in the process of adopting the white star. It is the author's belief that the choice of a yellow star was part of the Armored Force's effort to keep itself distinct from the rest of the Army, in much the same way as the Army Air Force was doing. However, lack of yellow paint—and a general resentment throughout much of the rest of the Army over the Armored Forces' élite pretensions—led to the use of white stars on many armoured vehicles.



An M3 half-track of the 41st Armored Infantry, 2nd Armored Division in Converse, LA, in September 1941. This shows the markings typical of the 2nd Armored Division at the time; a national insignia consisting of a red disc, white star and blue cockade. The bumper codes identify it as the 18th half-track of Co. A.

The Army formalised the use of a white star as a form of national insignia in its August 1942 AR-850-5. This regulation also set out the size and location of the stars on various types of vehicles. This edition of the AR-850-5 was followed by subsequent changes in 1943, 1944 and 1945. Usually the changes showed star placement on newer vehicle types. The illustrations in this book show a typical selection of US armoured vehicles and the official size and positioning of the stars. It should be kept in mind that stars were applied by the unit in the field or by the depot, not in the factory. As a result, there was some variation in their size and placement. Many depots cut a few standard star stencils, and used them on vehicles which by strict interpretation of regulations required other sizes.



An M4A1 Medium Tank of the 710th Tank Battalion off the San Clemente, CA coast on 16 February 1944. This view shows the full range of national markings outlined in the AR-850-5 and technical bulletins, including the prominent turret band. The bumper codes 'III-710 △', 'HQ13' indicate 13th vehicle of the HQ Co., 710th Tank Battalion, III Corps.

Another important addition brought about in the August 1942 issue of AR-850-5 was a comprehensive set of new unit bumper codes that were far more detailed than those proposed in the January Armored Force orders. These consisted of three groups of letters: first, the major corps, division and centre directions; second, the separate regiments, brigades, independent battalions and so on; and third, the companies and smaller organisations. Generally speaking, the first and second group of numerals and letters were carried on the right of the bumper and the third on the left. For tanks, the AR-850-5 displayed specific locations where these unit codes were to be marked. The list below indicates the various letters authorised under the August 1942 AR-850-5. Other letters were later added for certain specialised units but are of little relevance to armoured vehicles.

First Group

Infantry Division	. . . Arabic numeral
Armored Division	. . . Arabic numeral + triangle
Cavalry Division	. . . Arabic numeral + C
Army Corps	. . . Roman numeral
Cavalry Corps	. . . Roman numeral + C
Armored Corps	. . . Roman numeral + triangle
Army	. . . Arabic numeral + A
Air Force	. . . Arabic numeral + star
Zone of Communications	. . . ZC
Army Ground Forces	. . . AGF
Services of Supply	. . . SOS
General HQ	. . . GHQ
Zone of Interior	. . . ZI
Reception Center	. . . RC
Replacement Training Center	. . . RTC preceded by arms of service
Training Center	. . . TC preceded by arms of service
Firing Center	. . . FC preceded by arms of service
All others	. . . non-conflicting letters

Second Group

Airborne	. . . AB
Army Air Force	. . . 3in. star
Anti-aircraft	. . . AA
Amphibious	. . . AM
Armored	. . . Diamond
Cavalry	. . . C
Chemical Warfare	. . . G
Coast Artillery	. . . CA
Field Artillery	. . . F/FA
Infantry	. . . I (preceded by dash)

Medical	M
Military Police	P
Ordnance	O (preceded by dash)
Quartermaster	Q
Signal Corps	S
Tank Destroyer	TD
Tank Group	TG
Third Group	
Headquarters	HQ
Service Company	SV
HQ without previous ID code	HQ preceded by unit number
Serv. Co. w/o previous ID code	SV preceded by unit number
Lettered company	company letter
Separate co. ID in previous gp	X
Anti-tank	AT
Maintenance	MT
Heavy Weapons	HW
Cannon	CN
Reconnaissance	R
Train	TN
Weapons	W
Other	non-conflicting letter

The chart below shows some samples of this style of bumper code:

1△-X-SV-10	10th vehicle, Serv. Co., 1st Armd. Div.
1△-81R-A-10	10th vehicle, Co. A, 81st Rcn. Bn., 1st Armd. Div.
1△-1△-A-10	10th vehicle, Co. A, 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
2A-601TD-A-10	10th vehicle, Co. A, 601st Tank Destroyer Bn, 2nd Army
1A-751△-A-10	10th vehicle, Co. A, 751st Tank Bn., 1st Army

The new editions of AR-850 also outlined the proper locations and size of the registration numbers. Another marking promulgated in the newer edition was a bridge weight marking. This was an 8in. yellow square with a black numeral indicating the weight of the tank in tons. The accompanying drawings showing the location of the stars also show the proposed locations of this marking on the hull front. In contrast to Armored Force instructions, AR-850-5 indicated that all markings except the bridging square and registration marking were to be painted in lustreless white, not yellow.

It should also be kept in mind that AR-850-5 was not the only set of Army orders floating around offering advice on the location and size of stars. Because new editions of AR-850-5 were usually slow to incorporate new tank types, there were a variety of technical bulletins issued which provided details for various types of tanks and armoured vehicles not covered in AR-850-5. In some cases these differed from the AR-850-5 in many details, causing no small amount of confusion in the depots responsible for adding insignia. The ambiguity and confusion caused by this dispersion of control was accepted by most of the troops as justification for ignoring the orders and placing the markings on the vehicles in the light of commonsense or past practices.

AR-850-5 specifically authorised commanders in the field to delete at their own discretion any of the markings outlined in the orders for reasons of security. The orders also specifically permitted that field commanders could develop their own unit insignia, using geometric shapes to replace the clearer bumper codes, for security reasons. As a result, while tanks in CONUS tended to follow the AR-850-5 instructions reasonably closely, tanks and other vehicles overseas generally ignored them.

Camouflage Painting of AFVs

During the course of the war the Corps of Engineers, which was responsible for the camouflage of Army equipment, developed a host of bulletins, field manuals (FM) and other instructions. These were used to teach the engineer camouflage battalions, and small numbers may have made their way to other units, where they were most likely ignored. The two most important of these were FM-5-20 and FM-5-21, editions of which were issued in October 1942. During the war the US Corps of Engineers had 12 paint colours available for use in camouflage painting of equipment. These are listed below by name, number, Federal Standard equivalent and Methuen equivalent.

US Army Engineers Standard Camouflage Colours 1941–45

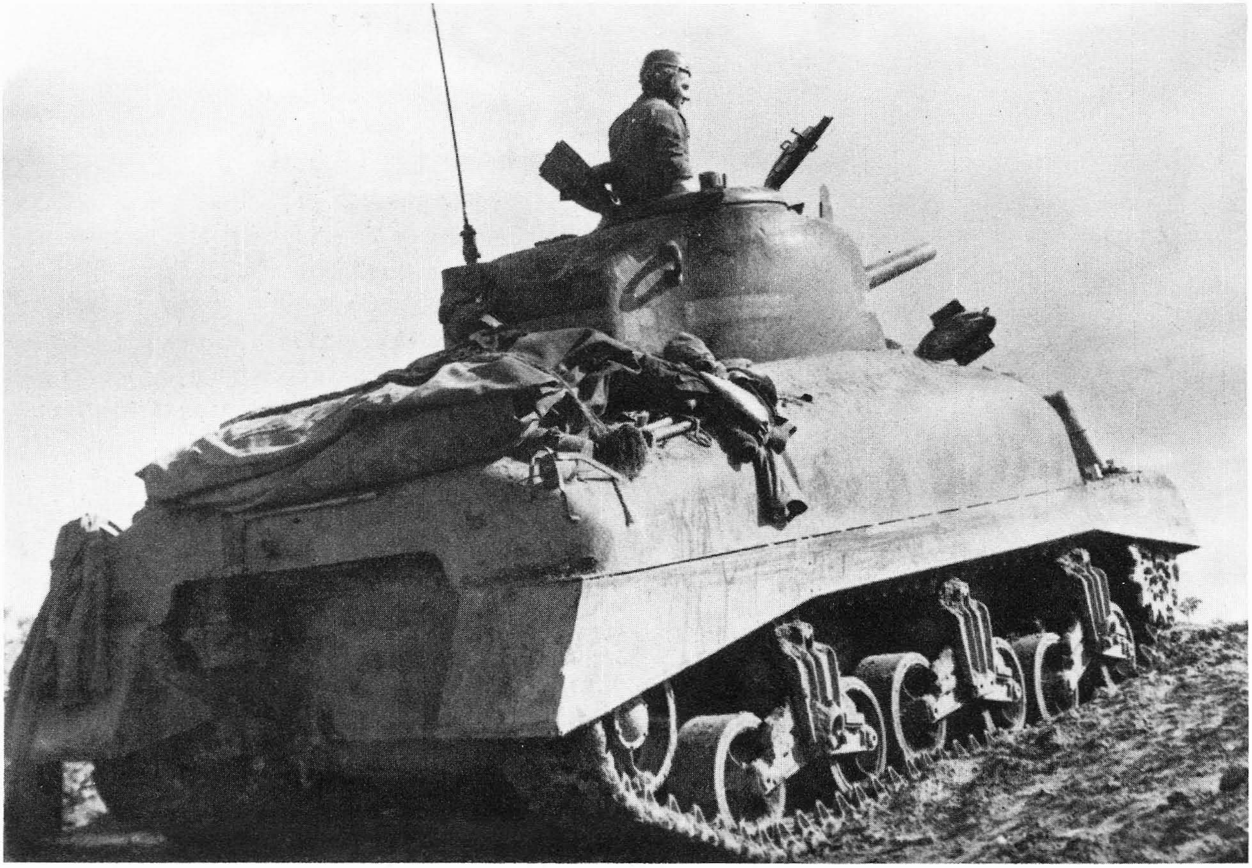
Colour Designation	*Federal Standard/ Methuen Equivalent*
No. 1 Light Green	. . . 34151/30E8
No. 2 Dark Green	. . . 34102/30F5
No. 3 Sand	. . . 30277/5C3
No. 4 Field Drab	. . . 30118/5E4
No. 5 Earth Brown	. . . 30099/6F5
No. 6 Earth Yellow	. . . 30257/5D7
No. 7 Loam	. . . 34086/5F3
No. 8 Earth Red	. . . 30117/7E6
No. 9 Olive Drab	. . . 34087/4F4
No. 10 Black	. . . 37038
No. 11 Forest Green	. . . 34079/30F4
No. 12 Desert Sand	. . . 30279/7C4

The October 1942 editions of FM-5-20 and -21 contained illustrations of proposed camouflage patterns for AFVs, including the M3 medium tank and the M2 half-track. Three schemes were offered, for temperate, desert and arctic conditions. These are shown in the accompanying colour plates. By the time that this manual was issued, the task forces participating in Operation 'Torch' (the invasion of North Africa) had already sailed or were in the process of embarking. Hence, there was no immediate reference to these manuals.

Camouflage in Battle

The major armoured component of the American invasion force in North Africa was the 1st Armored Division. When it landed its tanks were marked in a

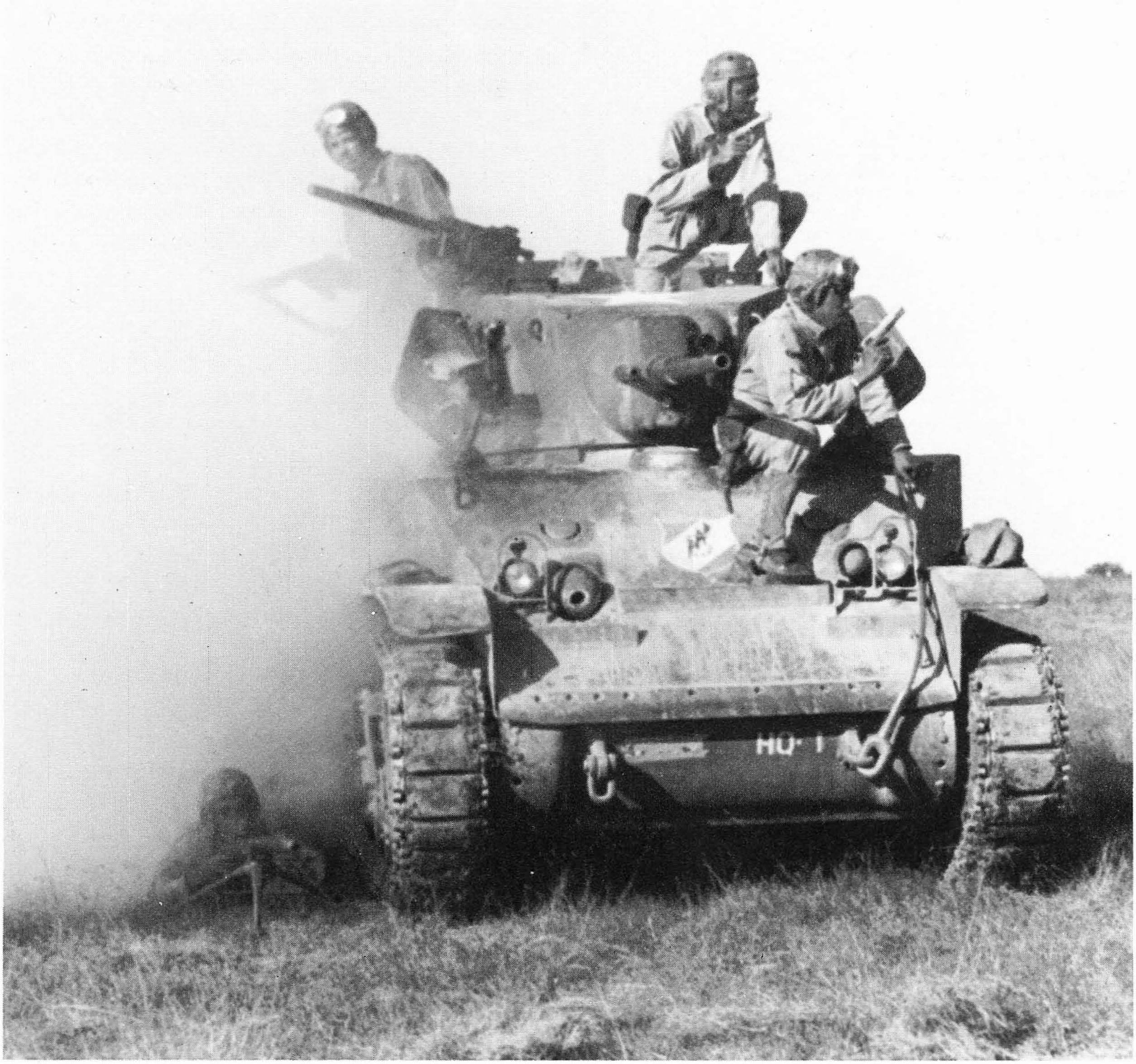
An M4A1 Medium Tank of E Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div. in Tunisia in 1943. The unit insignia, a vertical stroke with circle centrally to the right, can be seen on the rear side of the turret under the lifting ring. By 1943 many units had overpainted the star insignia: on this tank, a gap in the turret band reveals the original location of the star.



nearly complete set of regulation markings, with two concessions. No bumper codes were used, due to the ease of their decipherment, and instead a complex set of geometric symbols was used—these are shown in the accompanying colour plates. Also, many of the vehicles had a paper American flag pasted on, in the hope that French troops in Morocco would not fire on Americans. From what little colour motion picture footage survives from this campaign, it is evident that the tanks of this unit had their markings painted on in both the Armored Force yellow, and in the general Army white.

No camouflage painting was originally used. However, once the fighting with the Afrika Korps began in earnest, more attention was paid to the conspicuousness of the markings and the need for camouflage of the dark Olive Drab vehicles against the pale desert background. Camouflage paint was not available in sufficient quantities, so most vehicles had mud smeared on them as expedient camouflage. Many tanks also had their prominent star markings overpainted, as they offered too clear an aiming point for German anti-tank gunners. Ironically, in December 1942 the tank units were

An M5A1 Light Tank of the 5th Tank Group at Ft. Hood, Texas, in October 1943. This tank carries the crest of the 5th Tank Group, which was responsible for training the segregated Negro tank battalions. This use of regimental crests was occasionally seen Stateside, but was forbidden in the war zone.



An M4A1 Medium Tank of 2nd Platoon, Co. G, 3rd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div. crossing a river bed at Sidi Bou Zid on 14 February 1943. The markings consist of the divisional tactical insignia on the turret front; the national insignia with the tank number '3' in the centre; and two dots indicating 2nd Platoon behind the pistol port on the turret.

informed to stop painting their stars in yellow as it became obscured by dust too easily! The insistence of higher commands on retaining the large, conspicuous star marking on American armoured vehicles throughout the war was a needless hazard imposed on tank crews by a bureaucracy unfamiliar with the danger it imposed.

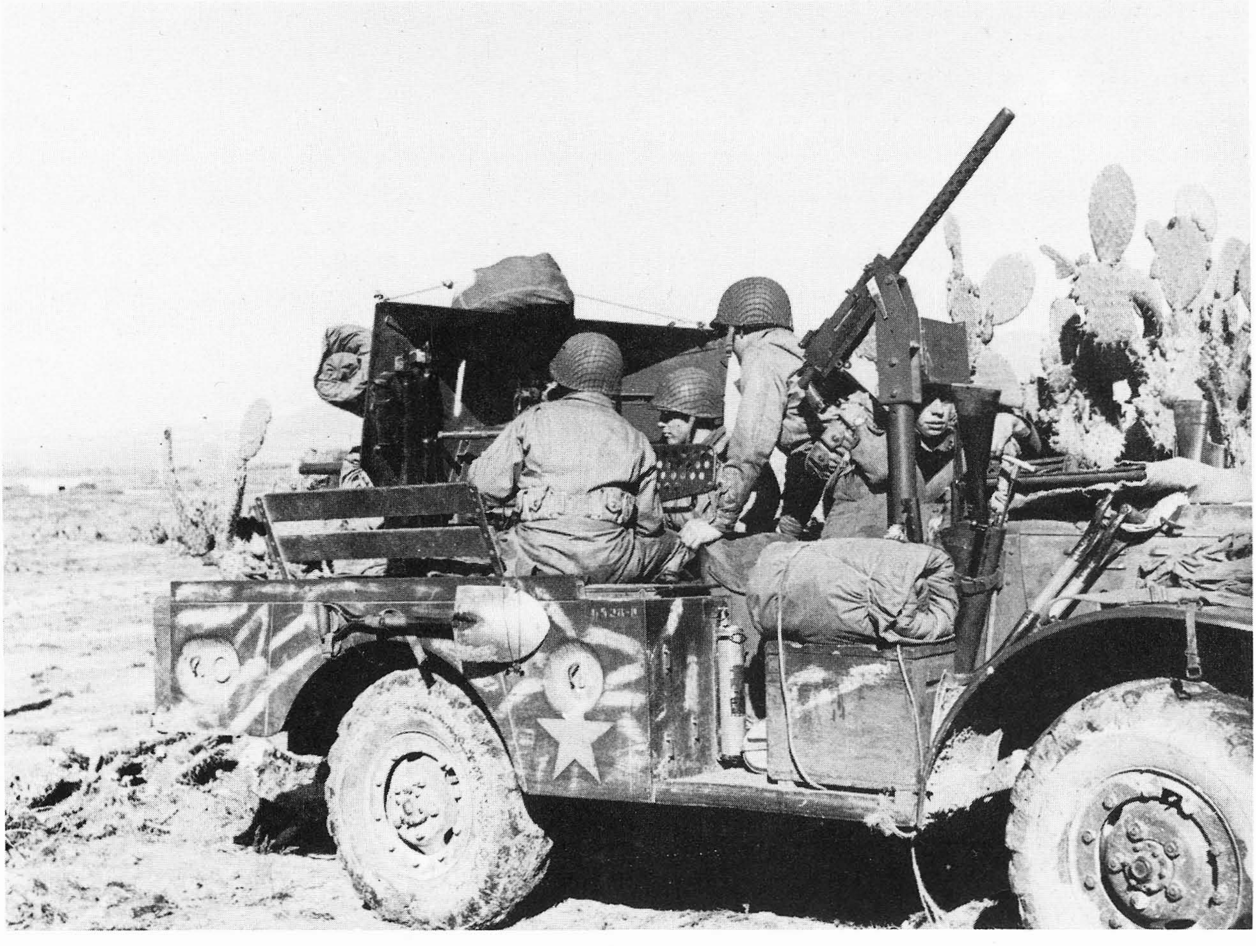
Following the end of the North African campaign, the 1st and 2nd Armd. Divs. began making the first efforts to apply pattern-painted camouflage to their armoured vehicles. This was linked to the 9 March 1943 Operational Memorandum 34 from Allied Force Headquarters calling for the camouflage-painting of all armoured vehicles scheduled for participation in Operation 'Husky' (the invasion of Sicily). The memorandum included sketches showing proposed patterns for various vehicle types, and recommended the use of No. 6 Earth Yellow or No. 8 Earth Red for the secondary colour. These patterns are shown in our colour plates. The 2nd Armd. Div. was thoroughly repainted according to these orders, using bands of Earth Yellow paint supplied by camouflage engineer battalions.

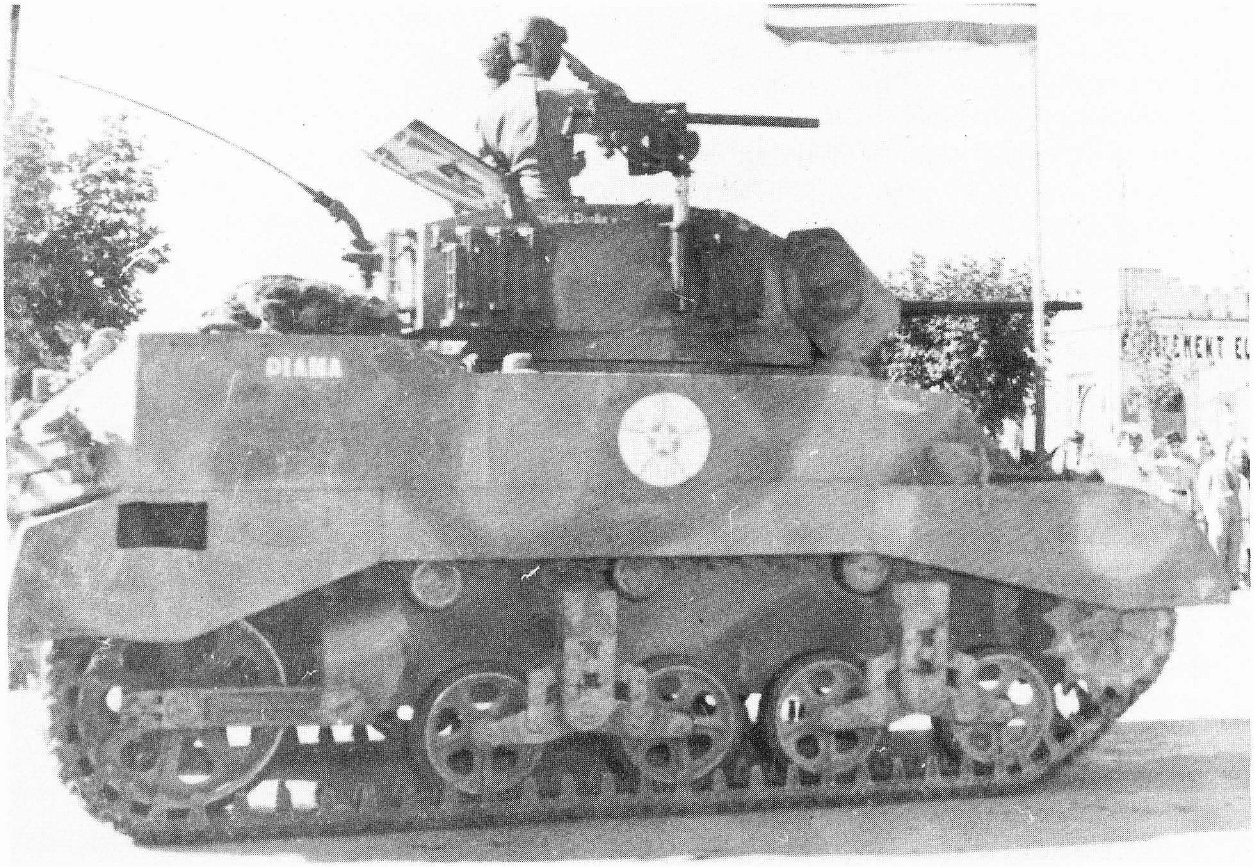
In the spring of 1943, AFHQ ordered the adoption of a circle around the national star insignia. There had been repeated complaints from aircrew that the star against a dark background could be mistaken for a cross at long ranges. This was duly initiated, and became the standard Western Allied air identification marking of the war. On 3 July 1943 the order was further amplified: 'For urgent operational reasons, all vehicles for "Husky" which have white stars will have circles widened to at least double the present size. Yellow paint to be used if possible. If not, then white, blue or red in that order of priority.' This order was generally followed in the 2nd Armd. Div., where the white circle was sometimes thickened to grotesque proportions. The division also used a series of geometric markings along with bumper codes, but this system has never been fully 'broken'.

In July 1943 the War Department issued a new series of camouflage booklets, including a revised FM-5-20B and TM-5-267. These offered a more comprehensive set of camouflage painting instructions than previous technical or field manuals, and for the first time actually included colour illustrations showing the patterns in use. Various schemes were shown for temperate, desert, arctic and other climates, and suggestions were made regarding various colour combinations. These illustrations were probably the most widely disseminated camouflage instructions of the war, and the only ones—apart from the AFHQ memorandum—to be followed to any extent at all. Our colour plates include a selection of schemes from this programme.

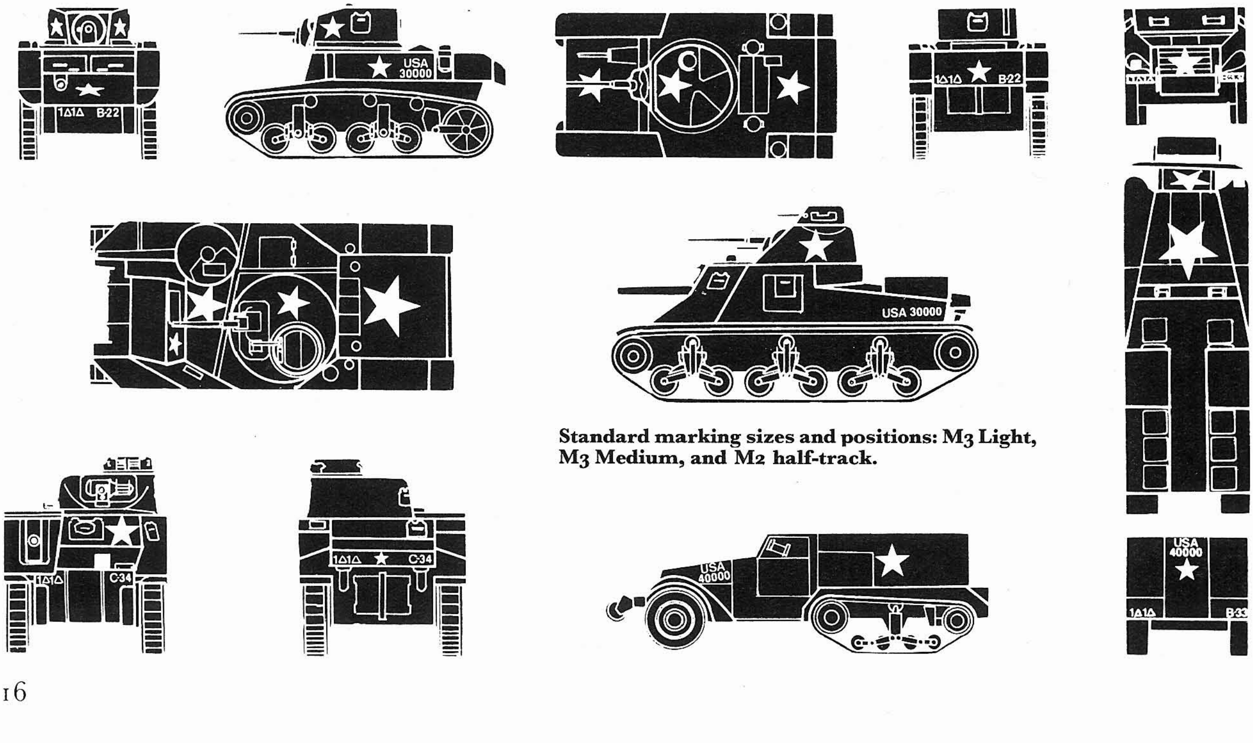
The actual use of painted camouflage patterns is very difficult to trace on US AFVs during the war. The problem stems from the lack of colour photographs from the period. The summer 1943 camouflage instructions recommended the use of Black bands over Olive Drab as a standard temperate scheme. This appears to have been by far the most common usage both in Italy and in north-west Europe. The author has arrived at this conclusion both by examining all the available US Army Signal Corps colour photos and all the available records of the engineer camouflage battalions. With a single exception, every colour photo showing a vehicle in Italy or Europe with a pattern-painted camouflage finish reveals the OD/Black combination. The records of the engineer camouflage battalions support this conclusion. Unlike many other armies, US vehicle crews ordinarily had little responsibility for camouflage painting, having neither the equipment nor paint. This was primarily the responsibility of the engineer camouflage battalions, although a commander could order his tankers to apply camouflage if the occasion demanded. These battalions did not spend much time with armoured units, as their main responsibility was to camouflage artillery positions and other static targets. However, several of the battalions were assigned occasionally to camouflage-paint tanks. Probably the most active in this regard was the 602nd Engineer Camouflage Battalion, which was in NW Europe in 1944–45. The only colours available to the battalion in any quantity were Earth Brown, Black and Light Green. Battalion records indicate that it painted entire tank and tank destroyer battalions, and occasionally helped to paint entire armoured divisions with the aid of their crews. The most common patterns were Black or Earth Brown bands, though the records do mention that in some cases patterns of both colours were used. No strict patterns were followed, and it seems that the bands were applied largely at the whim of the engineer wielding the spray-gun. It is difficult to assess what percentage of American tanks in Europe or Italy were camouflage-painted. The Black and Earth Brown patterns were so close tonally to the Olive Drab that only the clearest photo reveals them. It is the author's opinion that camouflage-painting of American tanks was probably more widespread than is generally believed, and may have affected as many as a tenth of armoured vehicles at any one time.

An M6 Tank Destroyer of an unidentified TD battalion in Tunisia in 1943. This M6 has patches of the mud camouflage which was common during the fighting in North Africa, due to the lack of camouflage paint.





An M5A1 Light Tank in Rabat, Morocco, in the summer of 1943. This tank is finished with a pattern of Earth Yellow over Olive Drab prompted by Operational Memorandum 34. The star with the 'bloated' ring was a style occasionally seen, due to orders in the summer of 1943 to thicken the ring for identification purposes prior to the Sicilian invasion.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Standard marking sizes and positions: M3 Light, M3 Medium, and M2 half-track.

Part of the reason that US tanks were not as widely camouflage-painted as those of other armies was that it was felt to be largely a waste of time. The patterns soon became indistinguishable under a thin layer of dust and grime, and the dusty Olive Drab base coat seemed adequate in itself as a camouflage finish. The last thing most tankers worry about is camouflage-painting of their vehicles. In some units camouflage discipline was seriously enforced, but this usually consisted of tying cut branches to the tanks, not painting them.

The only occasion when camouflage-painting was treated seriously was during the winter of 1944–45. Camouflage engineer battalions were provided with large quantities of lime and salt which were mixed to make a thick whitewash. The instructions sent to the battalions indicated that thin bands of Olive Drab should be left, but this was seldom done. Tank and armoured vehicle crews were usually just given a bucket and a mop and told to apply it as best they could. The only units which seemed to take the winter camouflage instructions seriously were M29 Weasel units, which did take care in the application of the whitewash.

Markings in Battle

The use of vehicle markings in combat areas varied enormously. Bumper codes were used consistently throughout the war as the primary means of unit identification. When security instructions ordered the deletion of the markings, they were usually simply obscured with grease or dirty motor oil. Registration numbers were often seen in white as well as the official Blue Drab. The reason for this was two-fold. On the one hand, stocks of Blue Drab paint were seldom available. Tanks were repainted as often as twice a year during overhauls, and so the registration numbers were repainted in whatever colours were available, usually white but sometimes yellow—white was always available, as the tank interiors were painted gloss white. Only a handful of the armoured divisions used geometric tactical insignia, preferring the bumper codes instead. The official square yellow bridging marking was almost never used, the circular British-style marking being used instead to reduce possible confusion.

The practice of naming vehicles with the initial letter corresponding to the company letter was quite widespread. This was occasionally accompanied by the display of cartoons, pin-ups or other decorations. These latter practices were officially frowned upon, and in fact the February 1945 revisions of AR-850-5 officially forbade such insignia. However, such practices were often good for unit morale, and the regulations were usually ignored. In some units the practice of cartooning was systematic, particularly if there was a good artist in the ranks. For example, virtually every tank of the crack 37th Tank Bn. (4th Armd. Div.) was named and had an appropriate cartoon. To give some idea of the flavour of these names, the list below covers the Sherman tanks of Company B, 37th Tank Bn.:

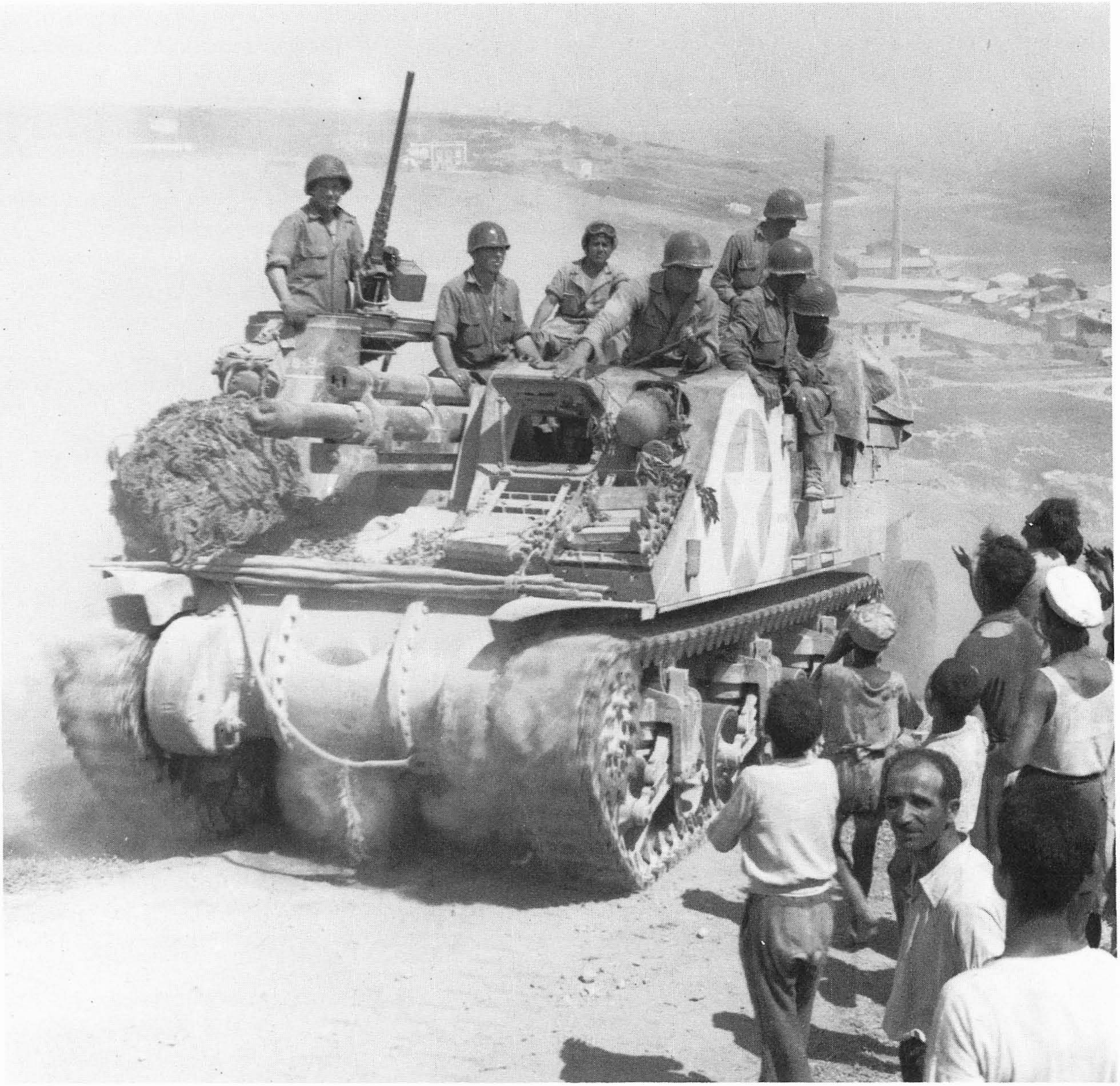
Company commander: BUCCANEER
1st Platoon: BLOCKBUSTER, BERLIN BOUND, BOTTLEBABY, BETTY BOOP, BEER BARREL
2nd Platoon: BOILER MAKER, BOCK BEER, BALLENTINE, BUDWEISER, BLATZ/BLUE RIBBON
3rd Platoon: BROTHER TOBY, BEAUFIGHTER, BROOKLYN BOY, BLENHEIM, BLONDIE
Assault gun: BACK BREAKER
Bulldozer: BULLDOZER[!]

It was not uncommon for some units to pick a theme in naming the vehicles: e.g. the 2nd Platoon shown above, which named its tanks after brands of booze!

One type of marking expressly forbidden was the regimental or battalion crest. These could occasionally be seen Stateside, but they were not supposed to be used in combat for security reasons. In spite of the regulations, a few units did use battalion crests. These were mostly field artillery and AAA battalions, which were not regularly as close to the firing line as the tank battalions.

The use of large tactical numbers on the turret or hull side was not common in the US Army in Europe, though it was used frequently in the Pacific. Some units in Europe did make use of large tactical numbering, notably the 2nd Armd. Div. in 1944, and the 6th Armd. Div. throughout most of the war.

The use of the national star insignia varied enormously. It could be seen in various shapes and



An M7 HMC of the 2nd Armored Division in Sciacca, Sicily, on 7 July 1943. The large ring around the star was added after the star itself, and hence does not fit very neatly on the vehicle side. The 1943 orders for thickened rings to be added to the national insignia often led to these awkwardly positioned insignia.

sizes, with or without the usual circular surround. In some units the circular centre area was painted in. However, a little combat experience usually taught the crews to overpaint the stars on the turret and hull side, as they made too conspicuous a target. In 1945 in Europe this became less of a problem, as so many Shermans had been covered with additional sandbag armour which completely obscured the markings.

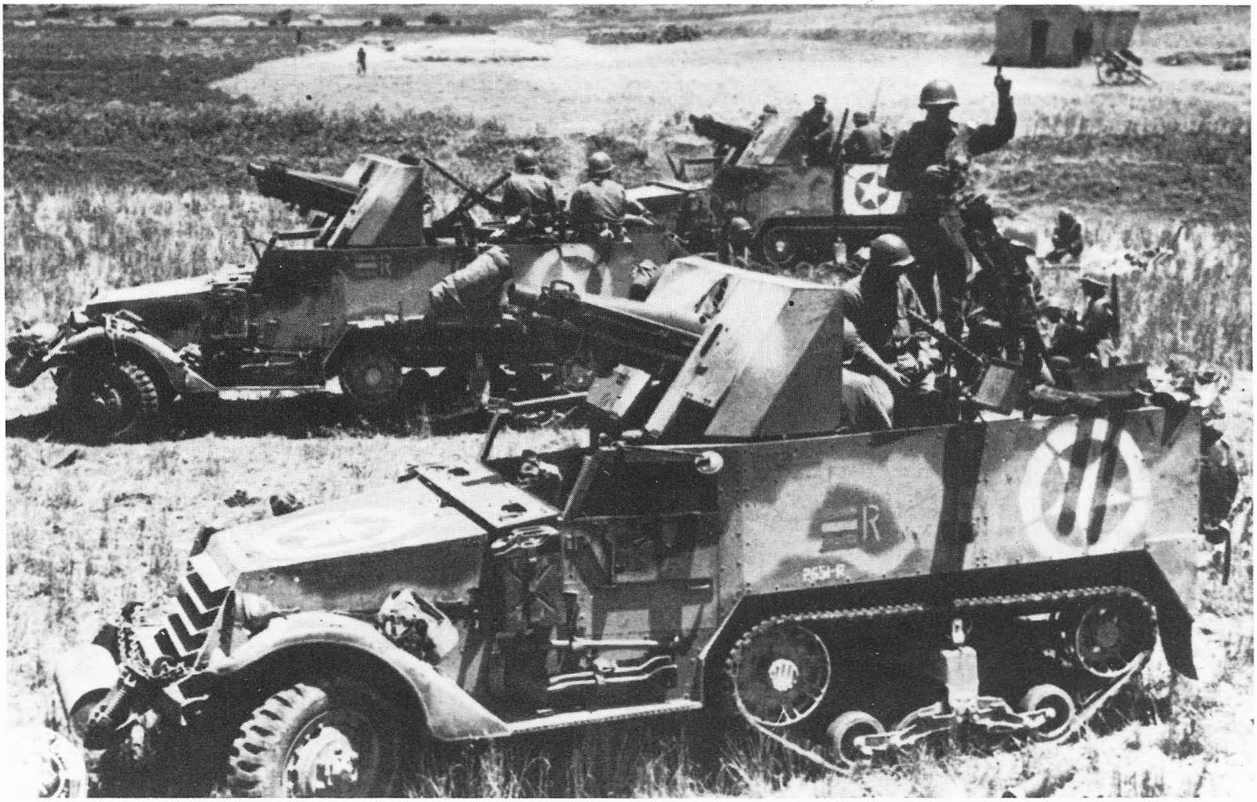
In fact, the inadequacies of the star as a means of national identification led to the adoption of fluorescent coloured panels instead. The identity panels, designated AP-50-A, were adopted in joint discussions with the British Army in November 1943, and went into effect in February 1944. The set consisted of two panels measuring 12ft × 3in., one in neon red with a white backing (AL 140) and one in electric yellow with a white backing (AL 141). The colour of these panels has been variously described as fluorescent pink, cerise, and fluorescent amber. These were issued to tanks and other AFVs and were supposed to be tied down on the rear deck.

During the initial fighting in Normandy there was a shortage of sets, and as a result only units in close contact with the enemy were issued the panels. The main purpose of the panels was to prevent attack by Allied fighter-bombers. The use of two colours allowed the GHQ to select between them on different days, to prevent the Germans from copying the identity markings. (The Germans did use fluorescent panels on AFVs in the Ardennes offensive in December 1944, but they were initially fairly irrelevant due to the grounding by bad weather of Allied fighter-bombers.) A typical set of instructions on panel use was issued to 1st and 3rd Armies for March/April 1945: red and yellow (15–19 March); red (20–25 March); yellow (26–31 March); red (1–6 April); yellow (7–12 April); red (13–18 April); red and yellow (19–24 April); and yellow (25–30 April). In use, the panels proved too long, so from March 1945 newly issued sets were shortened to six feet.

Camouflage and Markings in the Pacific

The Army tank battalions in the Pacific largely followed the same marking practices as those in the ETO, with a number of notable exceptions. Since few of the battalions saw much more than a single campaign, they usually retained the white star marking, unlike veteran units in the ETO, which overpainted them after their frequent brushes with German anti-tank guns. In the Pacific the star was used without a white surround. Few of the tank battalions in the PTO used full bumper codes. Instead of the battalion identification, they tended to use small geometric insignia: these are shown in our colour plates. Army tanks in the Pacific seldom, if ever, used camouflage-painted patterns. The numbering system most commonly followed in the Pacific was so-called 'speed-numbering'. This meant that the numbers were simply applied consecutively to all tanks in the battalion, and had no particular significance. In contrast, some tactical numbering in the ETO involved using the first of two digits to indicate platoon or company, and the

The depot which painted the star on this T30 HMC were somewhat careless! This T30 belonged to the 82nd Reconnaissance Bn., 2nd Armd. Div. on Sicily in July 1943. The camouflage pattern of Earth Yellow over Olive Drab is very evident in this view. The three coloured bands and letter 'R' represent a type of unit identification marking common in the Italian theatre; later, it was painted on a white rectangle. The meaning of this marking practice is not exactly known, but it is believed that it consisted of a colour-coding for the battalion or regiment, with the company letter to the right.



second number to indicate the particular tank. Amphibious tanks like the LVT(A)-1 were initially finished in a pale blue colour to blend better with the sea, but in 1945 they reverted to Olive Drab. Amtracs and amphibious tanks often had 'beach markings' added. These were vertical stripes carried on the hull sides, front and rear. They usually indicated to which landing beach the amtracs were assigned: e.g., two blue stripes indicated Blue Beach 2, one red stripe indicated Red Beach 1, etc. The Marines used similar markings.

Marine tanks displayed markedly different practices from Army tanks. Although finished in Olive Drab paint, they did not usually carry the white national star insignia—with a few exceptions, such as at Guadalcanal. The Marine tank battalions each tended to have a separate pattern of markings, and these often varied from campaign to campaign. This subject is dealt with in more detail in my Vanguard No 35, *Armour of the Pacific War*, and in the notes below on unit markings.

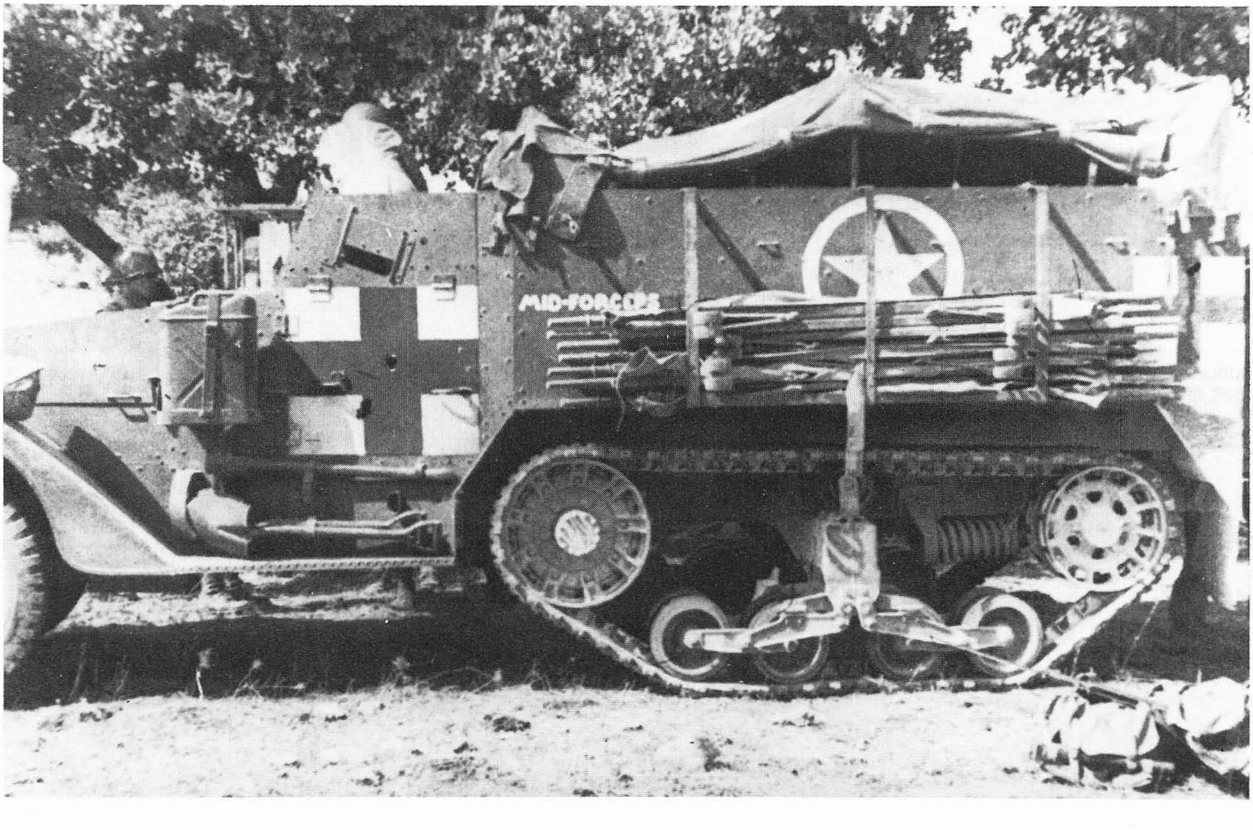
An M3 half-track ambulance of the 2nd Armored Division on Sicily in 1943. This shows the standard Red Cross insignia. The national insignia does not have the regulation thickened surround.

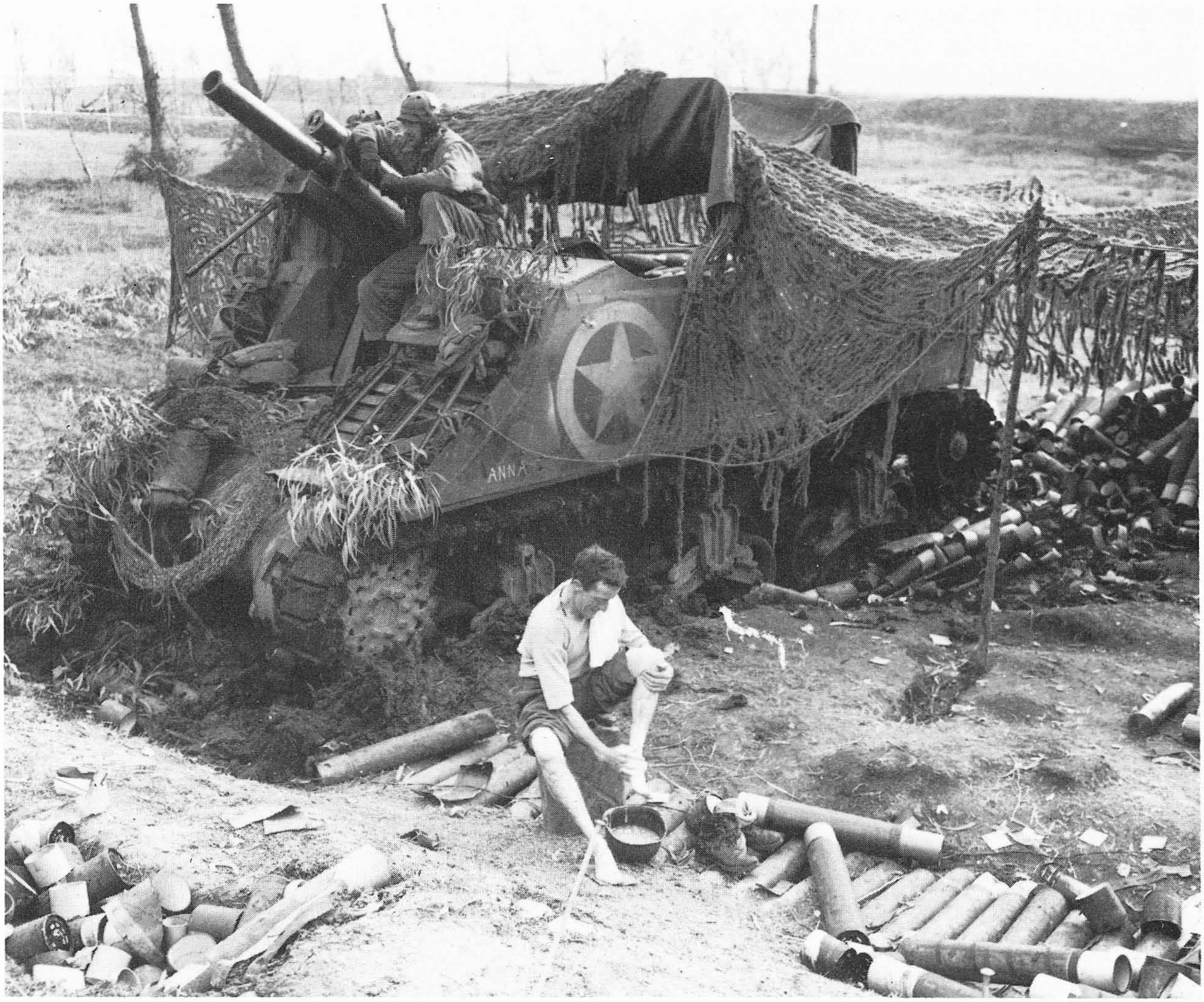
Unit Insignia

Unlike the British Army, which had a highly regulated set of markings, the markings in the US Army tended to vary from unit to unit. The aim of this section is to describe briefly the marking systems used by various armoured divisions and Marine tank battalions. This description can by no means cover every unit, but it does cover units where the marking systems are reasonably well understood:

1st Armored Division: The 1st Armd. Div. used a system of small geometric signs to distinguish its various battalions during the North African fighting: these are all shown on Plate H. They were painted in white or yellow, and were usually carried on the hull or turret sides, depending on the vehicle type. In some cases they were accompanied by a small number indicating the platoon to which the vehicle was attached.

Two other types of markings were also employed to distinguish the platoon. In some cases, one of the arms of the star had a number of 'slashes' through it, indicating the platoon number. In other cases, there was an interruption in the turret band towards the





An M7 HMC of the 69th Armd. Fd. Arty. Bn. in Italy in February 1944. The markings at this time were very similar to those used on Sicily, including the Earth Yellow/Olive Drab camouflage pattern. The name ANNA probably indicates Battery A.

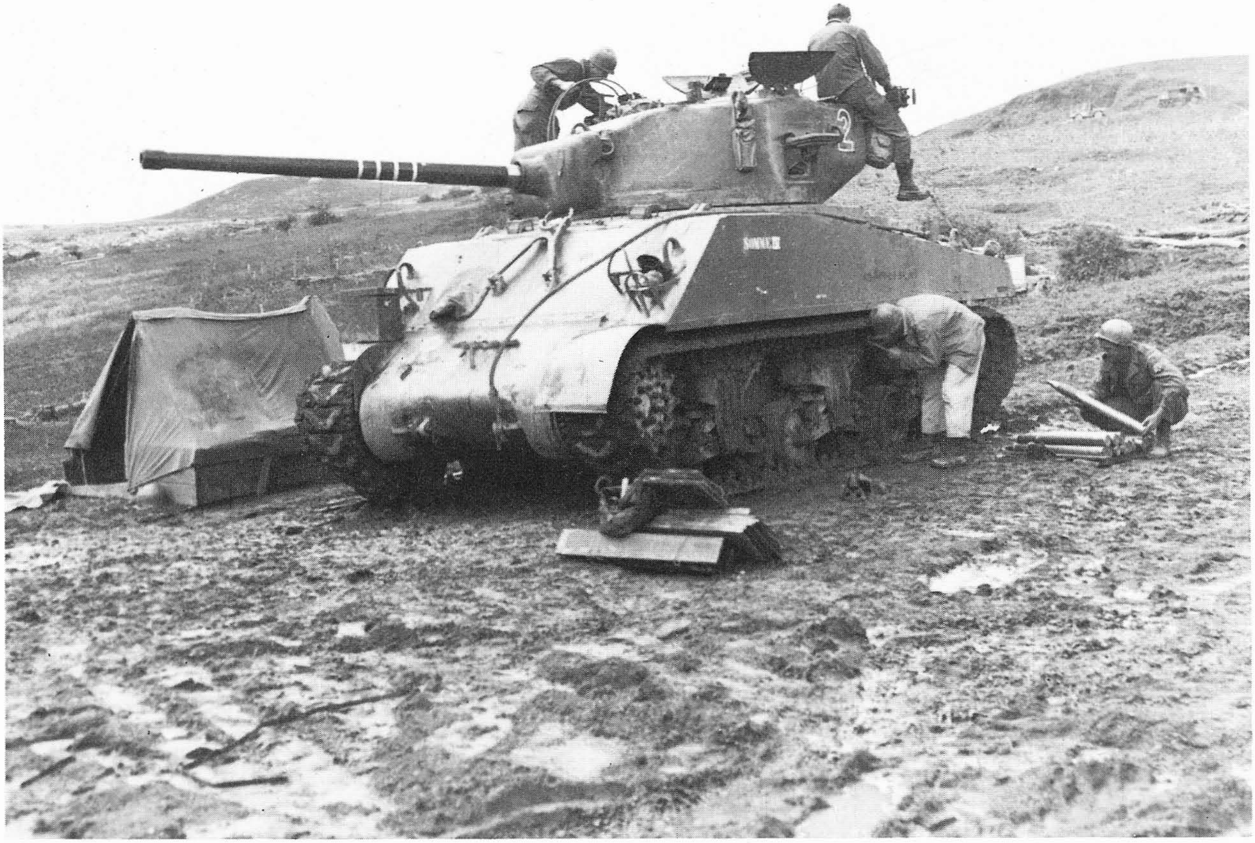
rear, and one to three discs were added, indicating the platoon. This system appeared in 1942, and remained in use until 1943. In 1944, when the division was landed at Anzio, a new system was adopted. This was intended to be simpler, and was used only to distinguish companies and platoons in a battalion. It did not provide any information on the identity of the battalion, which could be garnered instead from the bumper codes. The system consisted of coloured bands painted on the gun barrels and on the rear turret sides. The colour of the bands indicated the company: red, white and blue for the first to third companies. The number of stripes indicated the platoon. The platoon stripes were vertical; either one or two horizontal stripes were used by the battalion command tanks. Since the red and blue stripes did not stand out very well against the Olive Drab background, they were often edged in white, as shown on Plate H. When the division was reconfigured to the light TO&E later in the Italian campaign, the battalions went over to four companies. As a result, the colour sequence became red, white, yellow and blue to indicate the companies. Since there had been problems with the stripes on the turret sides, numbers were now substituted for the platoon stripes. The command stripes were also altered by placing them inside a circular design. The colouring of the command circle varied in style, as is evident by some of the samples shown on Plate H.

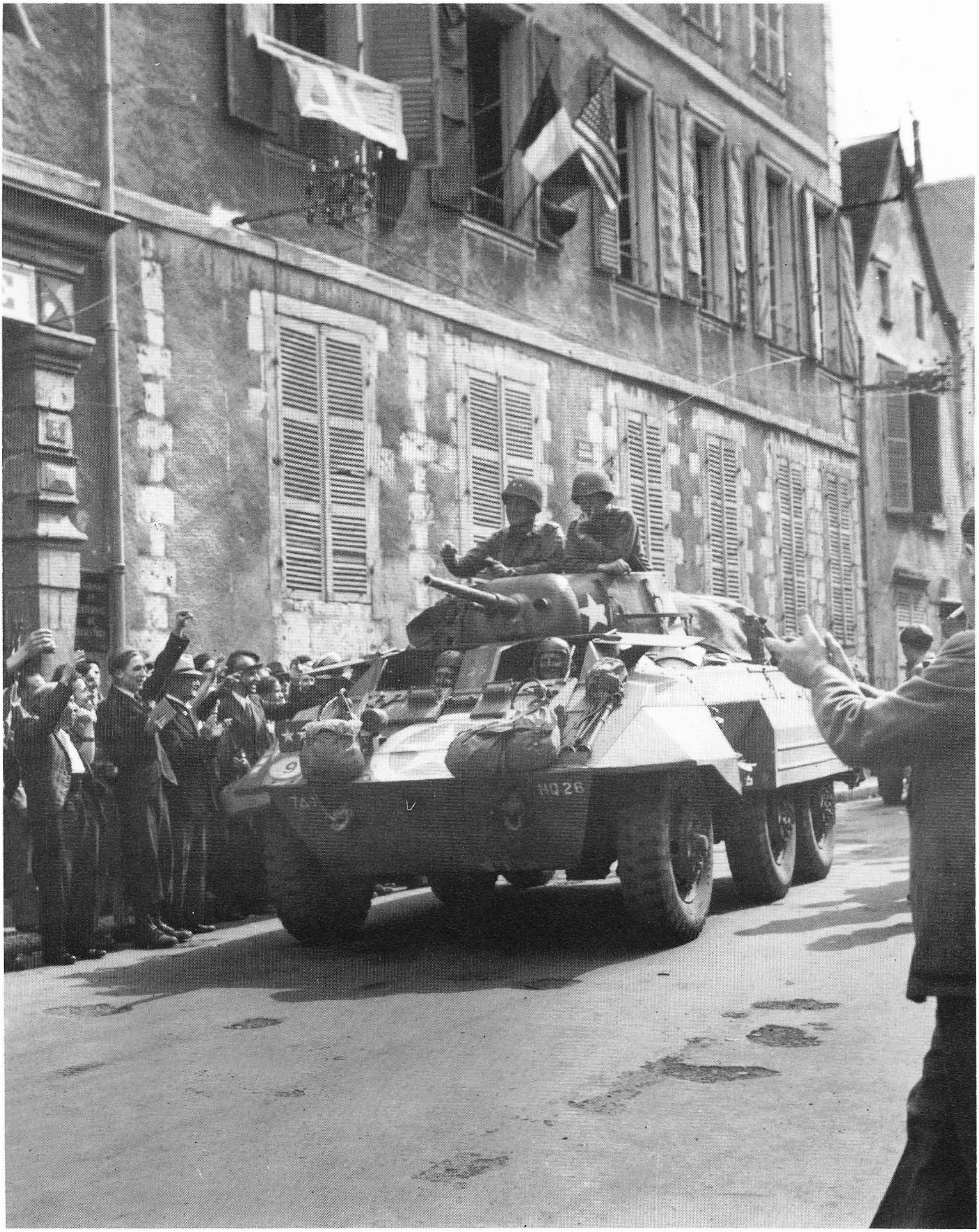
2nd Armored Division: The 2nd Armd. Div. had a series of small geometric designs to distinguish battalions and companies. This system went into effect in 1942 and was used during the fighting in Sicily. However, no records have been found indicating all the details of the system. In 1944, when the division landed in Normandy, it had a regular set of turret tactical numbers. These consisted of the company letter followed by the vehicle tactical number. Soon after landing, however, many of the tanks of the division were camouflage-painted *en masse* in rolling bands of Earth Brown, which usually covered these markings. Some divisional units, notably reconnaissance units, seem to have kept the markings.

An M4A3 (76mm) Medium Tank of the 1st Armored Division outside Bologna, Italy, in October 1944. This shows the later style of divisional markings. The two red stripes on the barrel, and the red number '2' with white trim identify it as a tank of A Co., 2nd Platoon. Its name is SOMME IV, which does not correspond to the company letter.

4th Armored Division: The 4th Armd. Div. did not have any specific unit insignia beyond those called for in the regulations. However, as mentioned earlier, all tanks of the 37th Tank Bn. had cartoons painted on the hull sides. The tank names all began with the company letter, except for the battalion command tanks, which had names beginning in 'T'. In contrast, the 8th Tank Bn. carried no such markings, and maintained much tighter camouflage discipline. Initially, most of the battalion tanks had the stars painted over, and steel fixtures added for the attachment of foliage camouflage. Some of the tanks of 4th Armd. Div. had platoon markings added: these consisted of vertical dashes that were painted on the rear of the hull sides and on the rear of the hull, one to three dashes depending on the platoon. These are shown on Plate H.

6th Armored Division: The 6th Armd. Div. in the ETO used a system of large white geometric





The M8 armoured car of Maj.Gen. L. Silvester, commander of the 7th Armored Division, drives into Chartres, France, in August 1944. The red plaque with two stars indicates the general's rank. Below it is the standard Allied bridging circle in yellow with a black '9'. The unit code is '7△X', 'HQ26'. The 'X' code was occasionally used when no lower unit attachment existed.

designs—e.g. a triangle or square—on the hull sides. These are believed to have been company insignia. They were painted over after a few months of fighting, as they were too conspicuous. Later, the division used large tactical numbers painted on the hull sides.

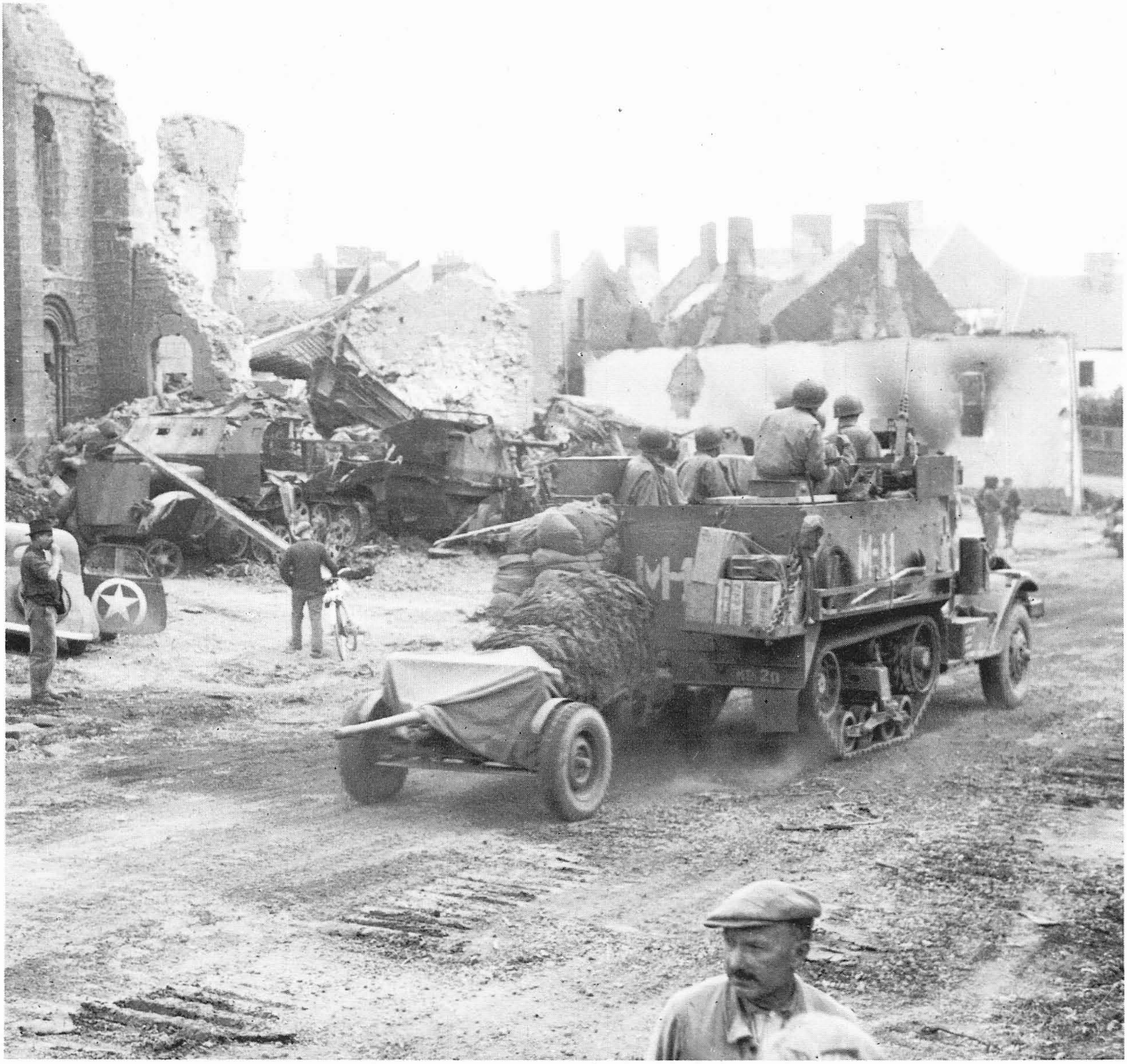
11th Armored Division: The 11th Armd. Div. used a system of markings on the hull stars. Stripes were painted over an arm of the star, the number of the stripes corresponding to the letter of the company (one stripe = A Co.; two stripes = B Co., etc.). The arm selected indicated the battalion: the 22nd Tank Bn. used the 12 o'clock arm, the 41st Tank Bn. the 7 o'clock arm, and the 42nd Tank Bn. the 9 o'clock arm. Some vehicles also appear to have used a series of white dots to indicate the platoon.

12th Armored Division: The 12th Armd. Div. used a complicated set of chevrons and bars to distinguish its companies and battalions. These are shown in detail on Plate H, and were generally painted on the hull side.

14th Armored Division: Although the 14th Armd. Div. did not use any particularly specific markings,

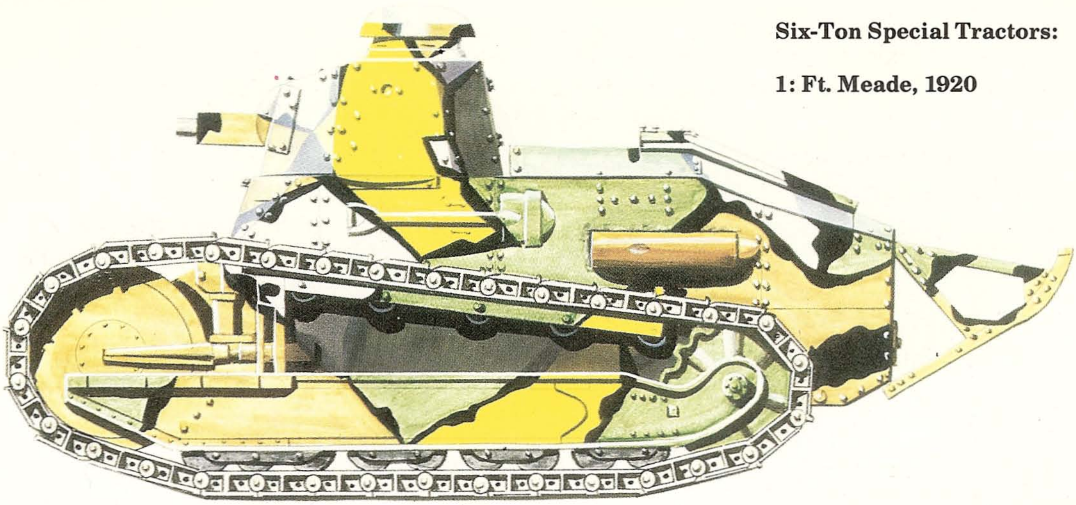
continued on page 28

An M3A1 half-track of the maintenance company of the 2nd Armored Division moves through Roncy, France, on 1 August 1944. The use of large tactical numbering on half-tracks and tanks was common in both the 2nd and 3rd Armd. Divs. in Normandy.

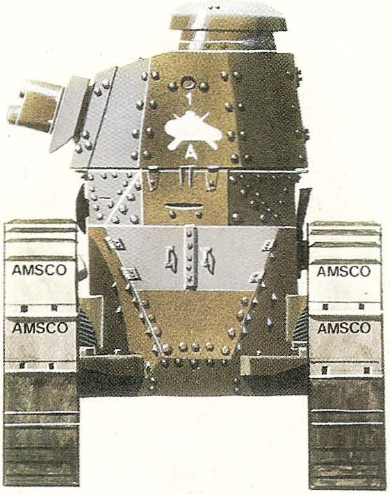


Six-Ton Special Tractors:

1: Ft. Meade, 1920



2: Mechanized Force; Ft. Eustis, 1931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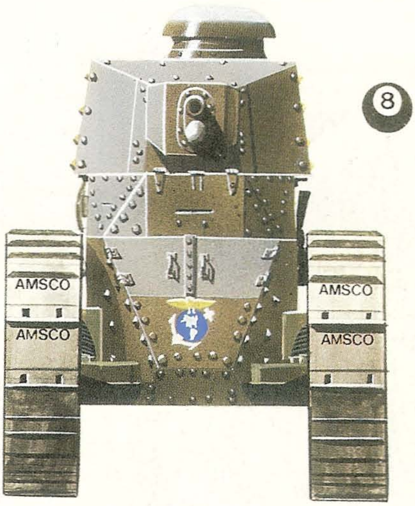
3:USMC Tank Co.; Shanghai, 1927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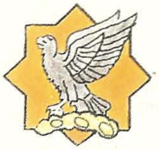

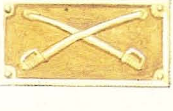

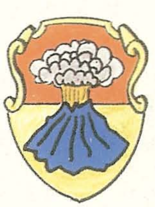

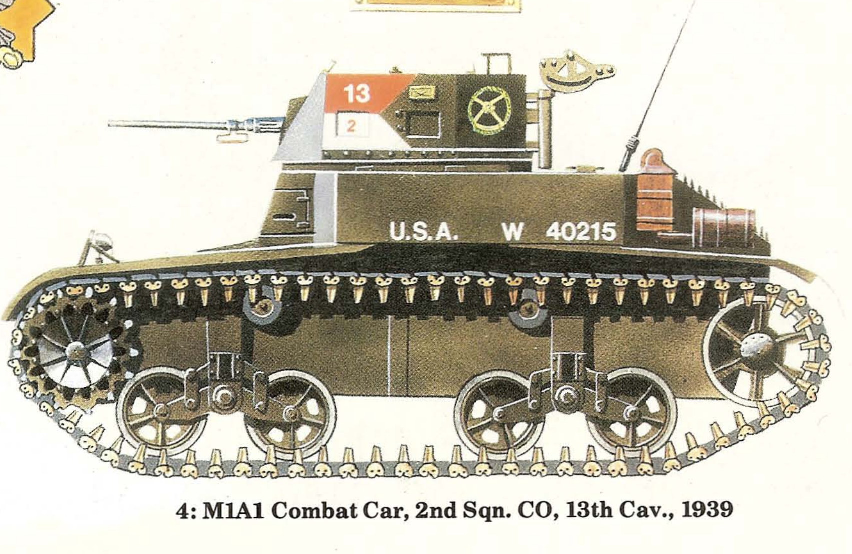
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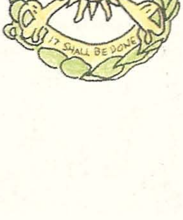
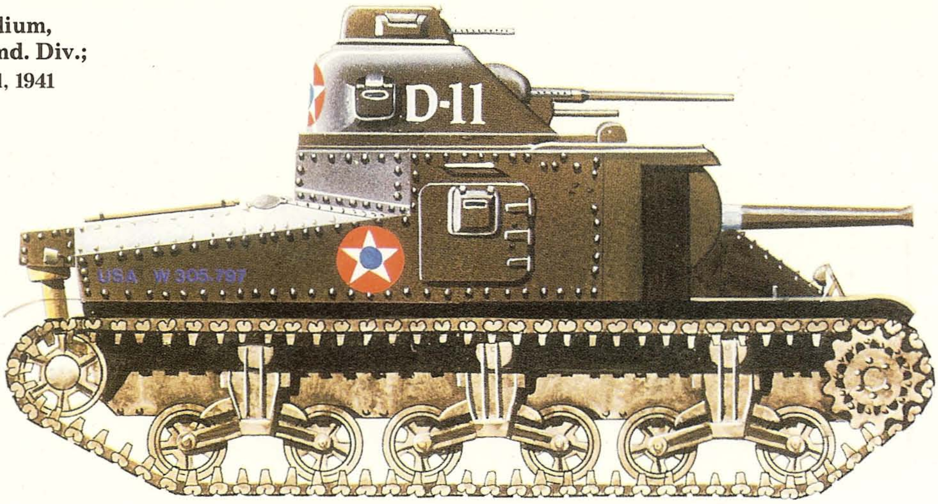

13
IT SHALL BE DONE

4: M1A1 Combat Car, 2nd Sqn. CO, 13th Cav., 1939

A

**1: M3 Medium,
2nd Armd. Div.;
Ft. Hood, 1941**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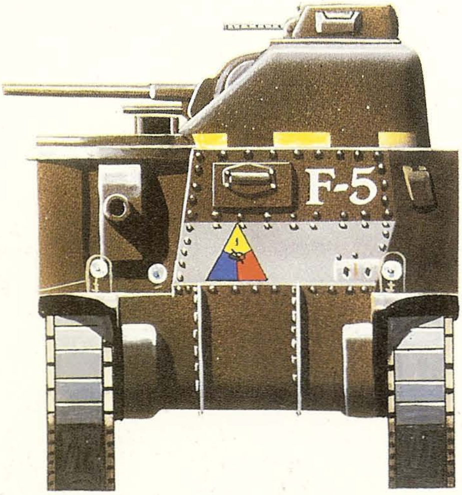
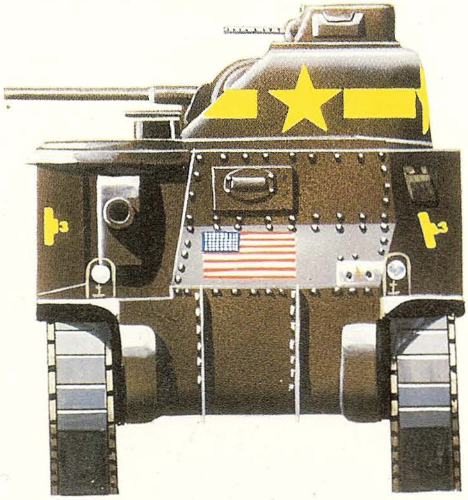
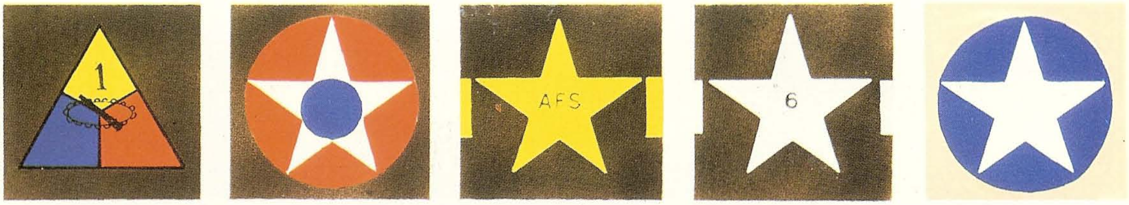


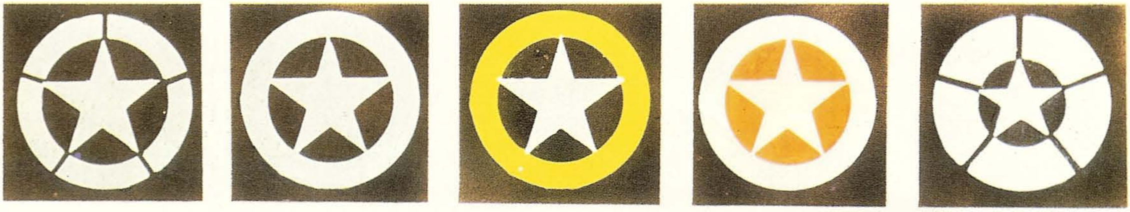
2: M3 Medium, 1st Armd.Div.; Ft. Knox, 1941



**3: M3 Medium, 3rd Ptn., E Co., 2nd Bn.,
13th Armd.Regt., 1st Armd. Div.; Morocco, 1942**

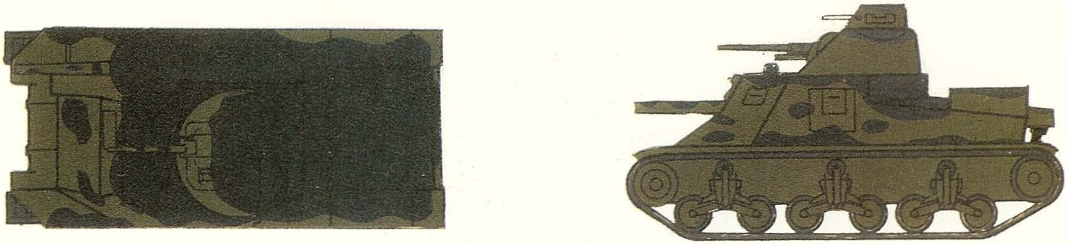


4: US national insignia variations, 1941-45

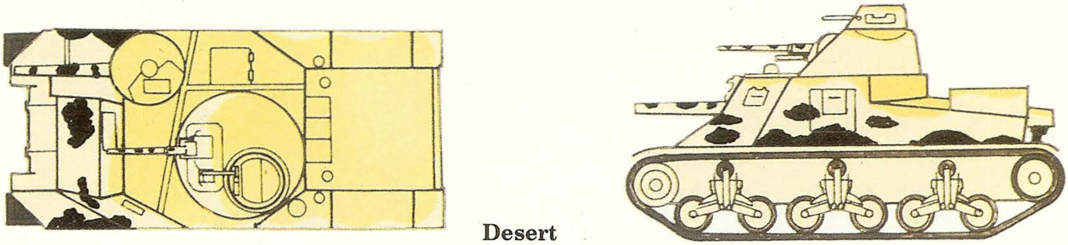


B

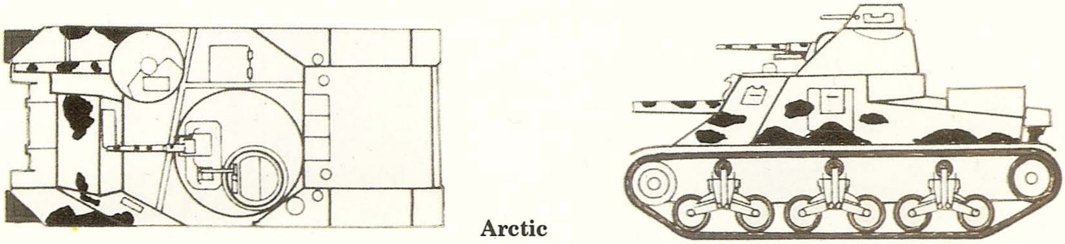
FM-5-21 (October 1942) Camouflage Patterns



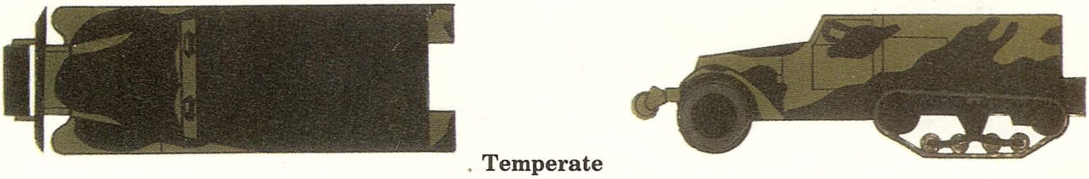
Temperate



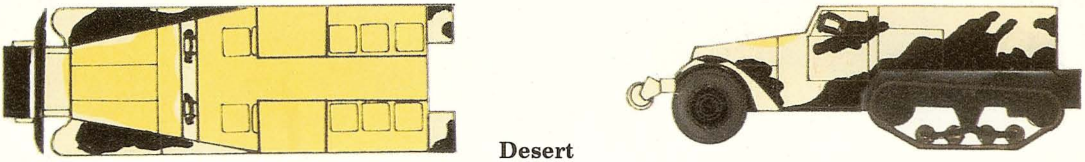
Desert



Arctic



Temperate



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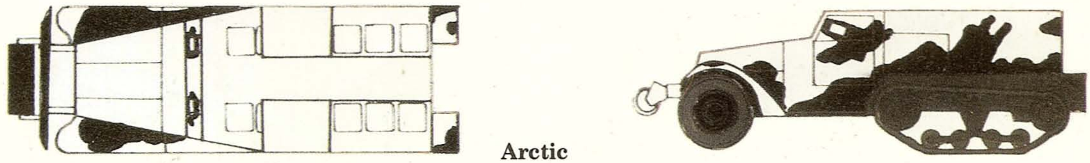
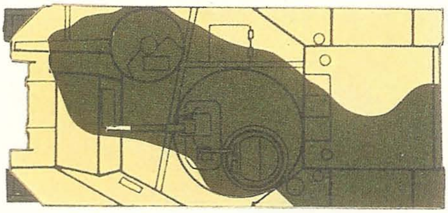
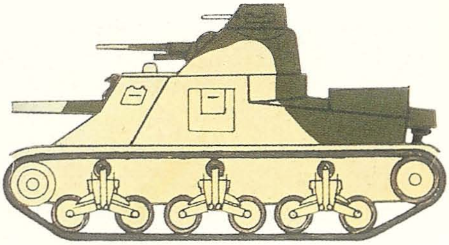
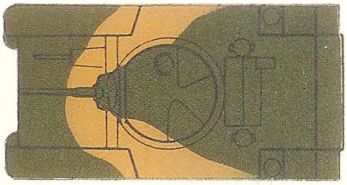


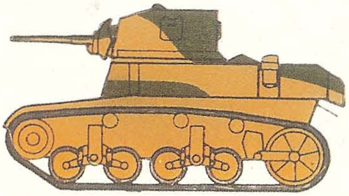
Arctic

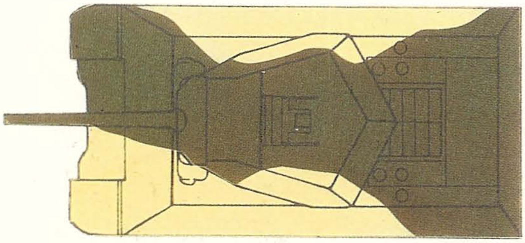
Operational Memorandum 34 (March 1943) Camouflage Patterns for Operation 'Husky'

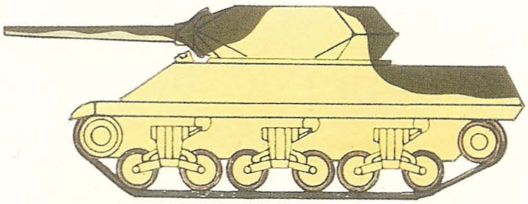


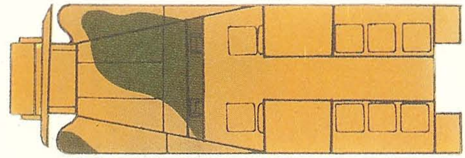


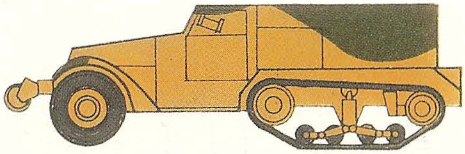


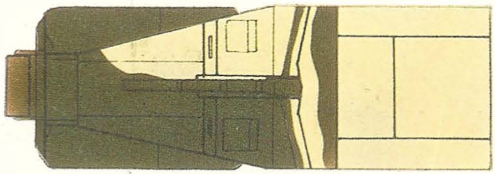


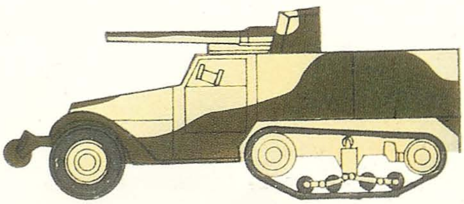






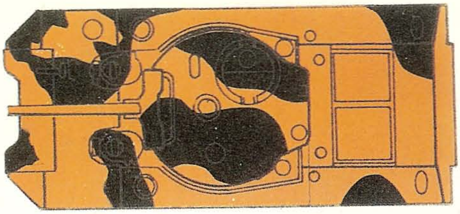


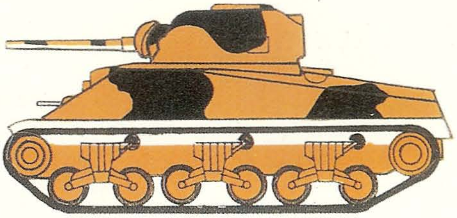


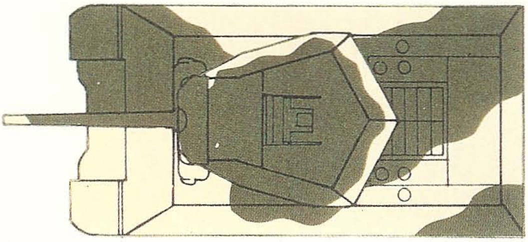


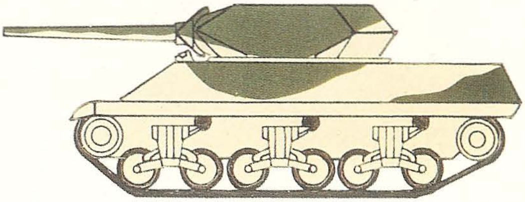
D

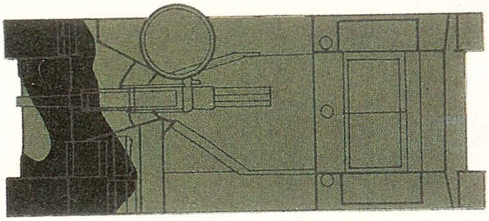
FM-5-20B (1943) Camouflage Patterns

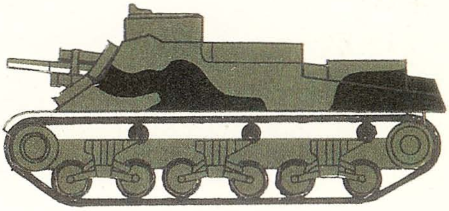


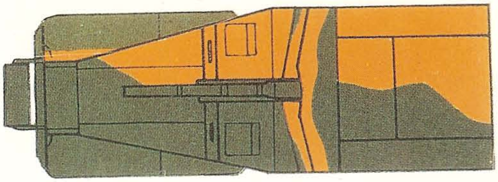


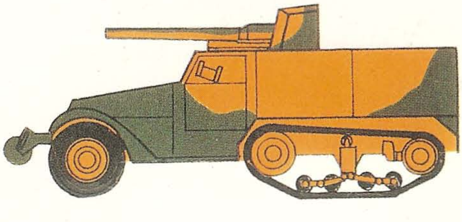


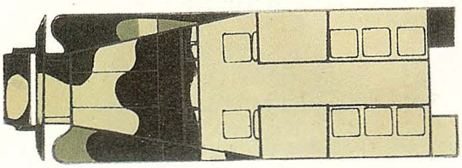


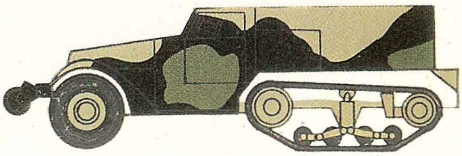












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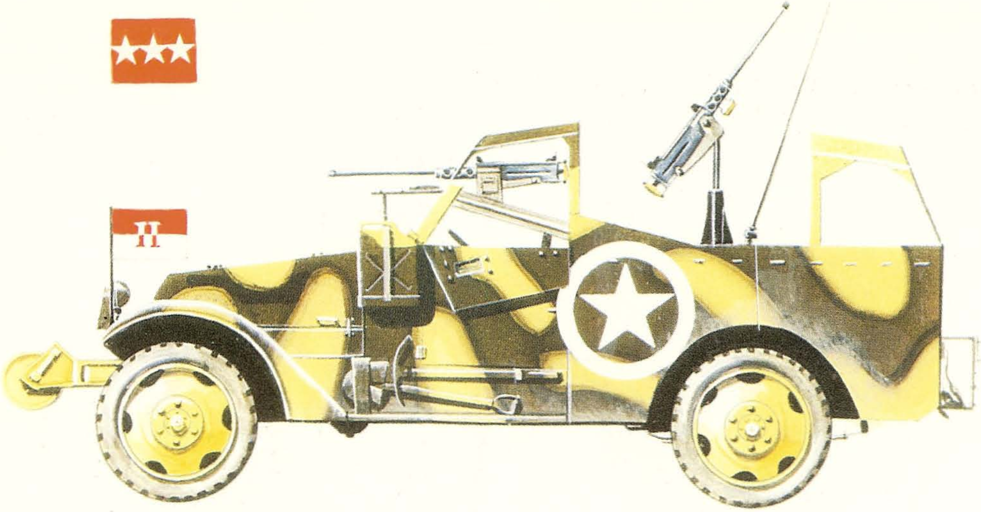
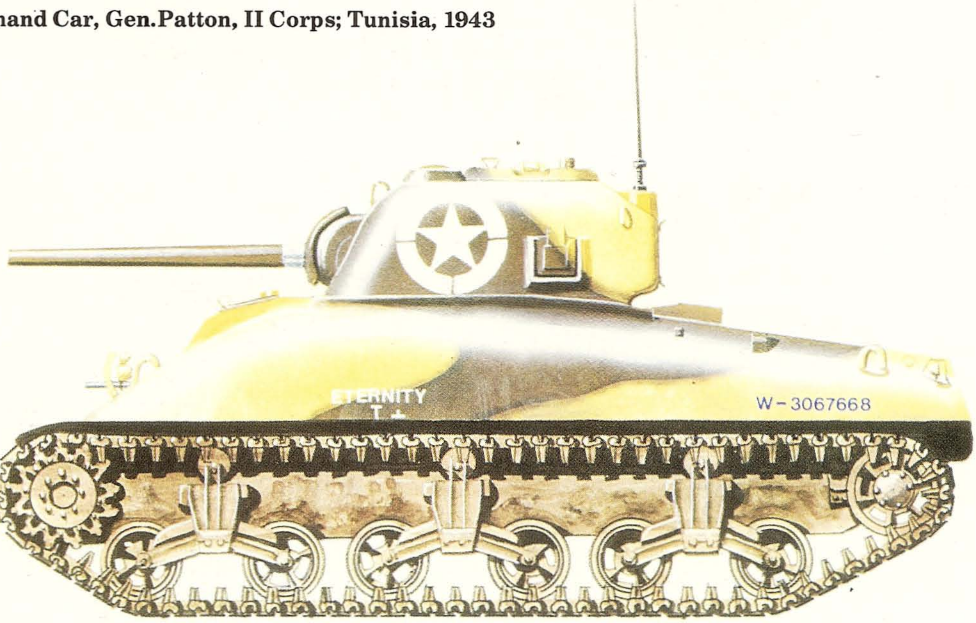


1: M3A1 Command Car, Gen.Patton, II Corps; Tunisia, 1943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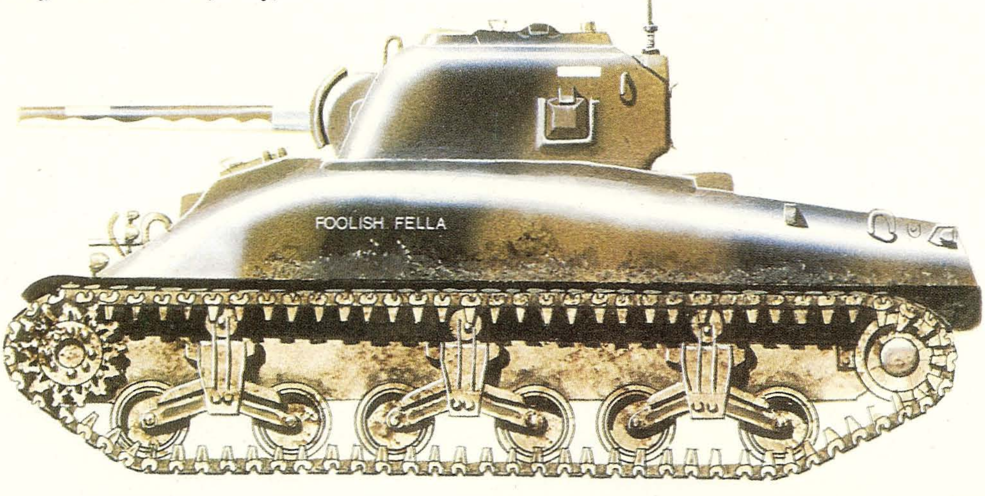
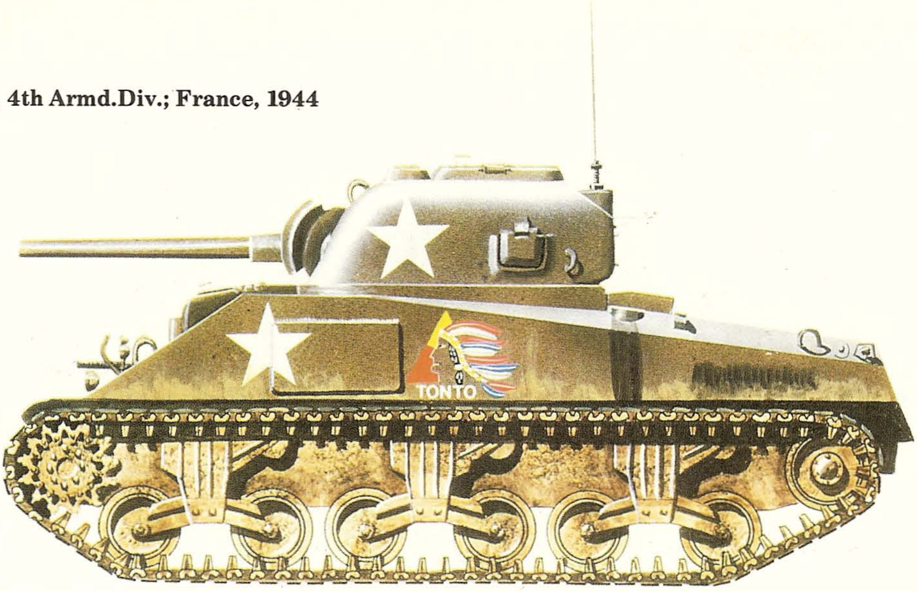
2: M4A1, 67th Armd.Regt., 2nd Armd.Div.; Sicily, 1943

3: M4A1, F Co.HQ, 1st Armd.Div.; Italy, 1944

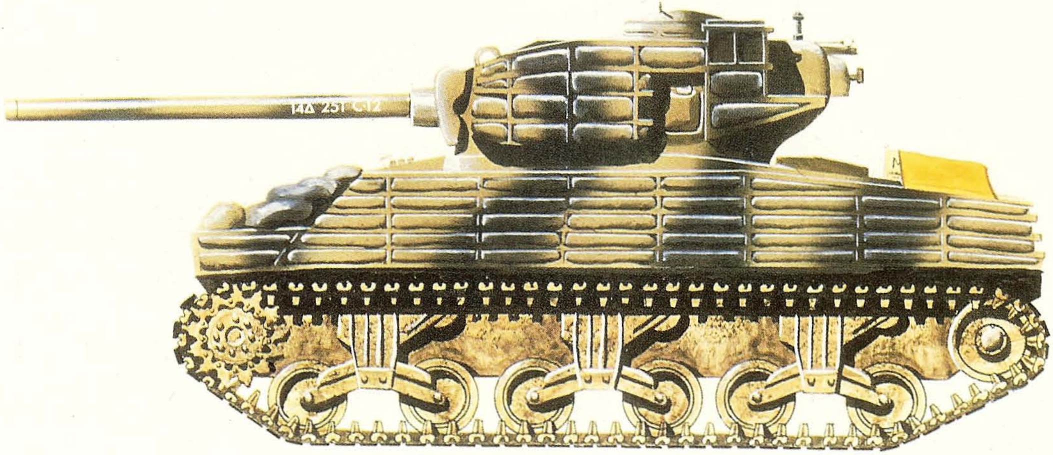

FOOLISH FELLA

F

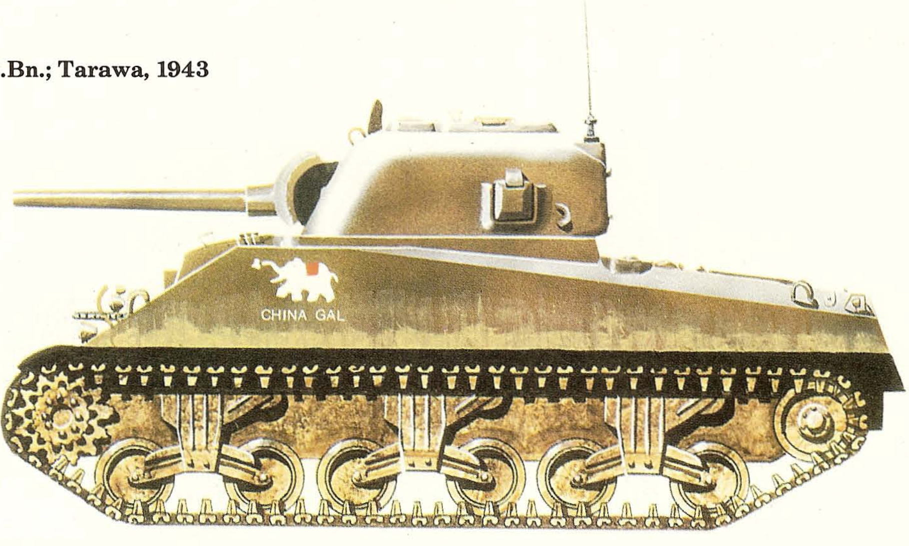
1: M4, 37th Tk.Bn., 4th Armd.Div.; France, 1944



2: M4A3 (76mm), C Co.; 25th Tk.Bn., 14th Armd.Div.; Germany, 1945



3: M4A2, IMAC Tk.Bn.; Tarawa, 1943



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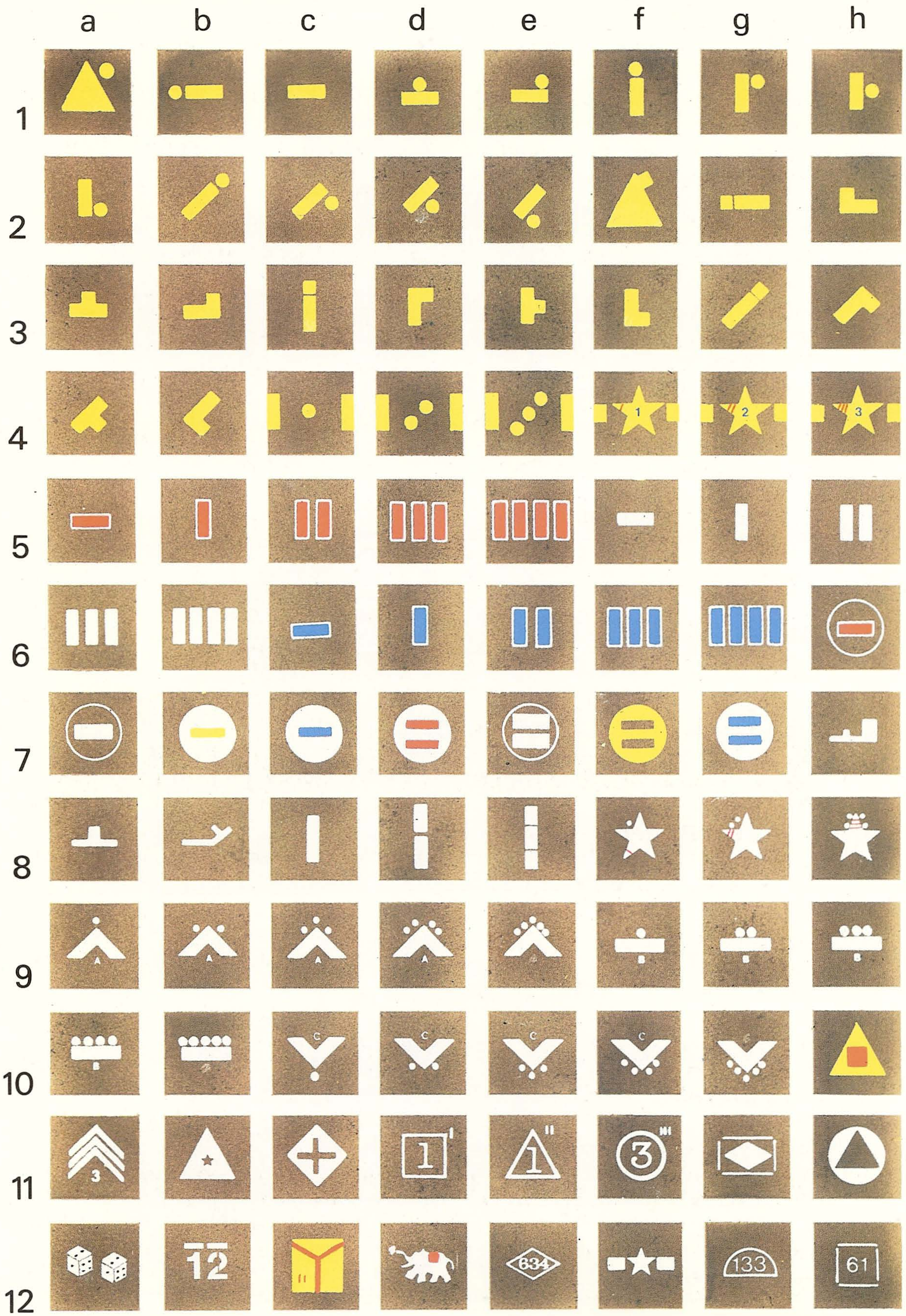
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H

Key to Unit Insignia illustrated opposite:

(1a) Combat Command A HQ tanks, 1st Armd. Div.
(1b) HQ Co., 1st Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(1c) Co. A, 1st Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(1d) Co. B, 1st Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(1e) Co. C, 1st Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(1f) HQ Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(1g) Co. D, 2nd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(1h) Co. E, 2nd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2a) Co. F, 2nd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2b) HQ Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2c) Co. G, 3rd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2d) Co. H, 3rd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2e) Co. I, 3rd Bn., 1st Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2f) Combat Command B HQ tanks, 1st Armd. Div.
(2g) HQ Co., 1st Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(2h) Co. A, 1st Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3a) Co. B, 1st Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3b) Co. C, 1st Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3c) HQ Co., 2nd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3d) Co. D, 2nd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3e) Co. E, 2nd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3f) Co. F, 2nd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3g) HQ Co., 3rd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(3h) Co. G, 3rd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(4a) Co. H, 3rd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(4b) Co. I, 3rd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armd. Div.
(4c) 1st Platoon (1st Armd. Div.)
(4d) 2nd Platoon (1st Armd. Div.)
(4e) 3rd Platoon (1st Armd. Div.)
(4f) 1st Tank, 1st Platoon (1st Armd. Div.)
(4g) 2nd Tank, 2nd Platoon (1st Armd. Div.)
(4h) 3rd Tank, 3rd Platoon (1st Armd. Div.)

1st Armored Division, early 1944 markings:

(5a) Command tank, Cos. A, D, G, 1st Armd. Div.
(5b) 1st Platoon, Cos. A, D, G, 1st Armd. Div.
(5c) 2nd Platoon, Cos. A, D, G, 1st Armd. Div.
(5d) 3rd Platoon, Cos. A, D, G, 1st Armd. Div.
(5e) HQ Platoon, Cos. A, D, G, 1st Armd. Div.
(5f) Command Tank, Cos. B, E, H, 1st Armd. Div.
(5g) 1st Platoon, Cos. B, E, H, 1st Armd. Div.
(5h) 2nd Platoon, Cos. B, E, H, 1st Armd. Div.
(6a) 3rd Platoon, Cos. B, E, H, 1st Armd. Div.
(6b) HQ Platoon, Cos. B, E, H, 1st Armd. Div.
(6c) Command Tank, Cos. C, F, I, 1st Armd. Div.
(6d) 1st Platoon, Cos. C, F, I, 1st Armd. Div.
(6e) 2nd Platoon, Cos. C, F, I, 1st Armd. Div.
(6f) 3rd Platoon, Cos. C, F, I, 1st Armd. Div.
(6g) HQ Platoon, Cos. C, F, I, 1st Armd. Div.

continued overleaf

1st Armored Division, late 1944 markings:

(6h)	Co. A platoon command tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7a)	Co. B platoon command tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7b)	Co. C platoon command tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7c)	Co. D platoon command light tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7d)	Co. A command tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7e)	Co. B command tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7f)	Co. C command tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7g)	Co. D cmd. light tank (1st Armd. Div.)
(7h)	Unknown battalion, 66th Armd. Regt., 2nd Armd. Div.
(8a)	Unknown battalion, 67th Armd. Regt., 2nd Armd. Div.
(8b)	Unknown battalion, 41st Armd. Inf. Regt., 2nd Armd. Div.
(8c)	1st Platoon (4th Armd. Div.)
(8d)	2nd Platoon (4th Armd. Div.)
(8e)	3rd Platoon (4th Armd. Div.)
(8f)	1st Platoon, Co. A., 41st Tank Bn., 11th Armd. Div.
(8g)	2nd Platoon, Co. B, 42nd Tank Bn., 11th Armd. Div.
(8h)	HQ Platoon, Co. C, 22nd Tank Bn., 11th Armd. Div.
(9a)	1st Platoon, Co. A, 23rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9b)	2nd Platoon, Co. A, 23rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9c)	3rd Platoon, Co. A, 23rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9d)	HQ Platoon, Co. A, 23rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9e)	HA Co., 23rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9f)	1st Platoon, Co. B, 43rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9g)	2nd Platoon, Co. B, 43rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(9h)	3rd Platoon, Co. B, 43rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10a)	HQ Platoon, Co. B, 43rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10b)	HQ Company, 43rd Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10c)	1st Platoon, Co. C, 714th Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10d)	2nd Platoon, Co. C, 714th Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10e)	3rd Platoon, Co. C, 714th Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10f)	HQ Platoon, Co. C, 714th Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10g)	HQ Company, 714th Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div.
(10h)	193rd Tank Bn.
(11a)	3rd Platoon, Co. C, 44th Tank Bn.
(11b)	708th Amphibious Tank Bn.
(11c)	716th Tank Bn.
(11d)	1st Platoon, Co. A, 754th Tank Bn.
(11e)	2nd Platoon, Co. B, 754th Tank Bn.
(11f)	3rd Platoon, Co. C, 754th Tank Bn.
(11g)	763rd Tank Bn.
(11h)	775th Tank Bn.
(12a)	775th Tank Bn.
(12b)	2nd Platoon, 756th Tank Bn.
(12c)	601st Tank Destroyer Bn.
(12d)	IMAC Tank Battalion, 3rd Marine Tank Bn.
(12e)	3rd Marine Tank Bn.
(12f)	3rd Marine Tank Bn.
(12g)	4th Marine Tank Bn.
(12h)	5th Marine Tank Bn.

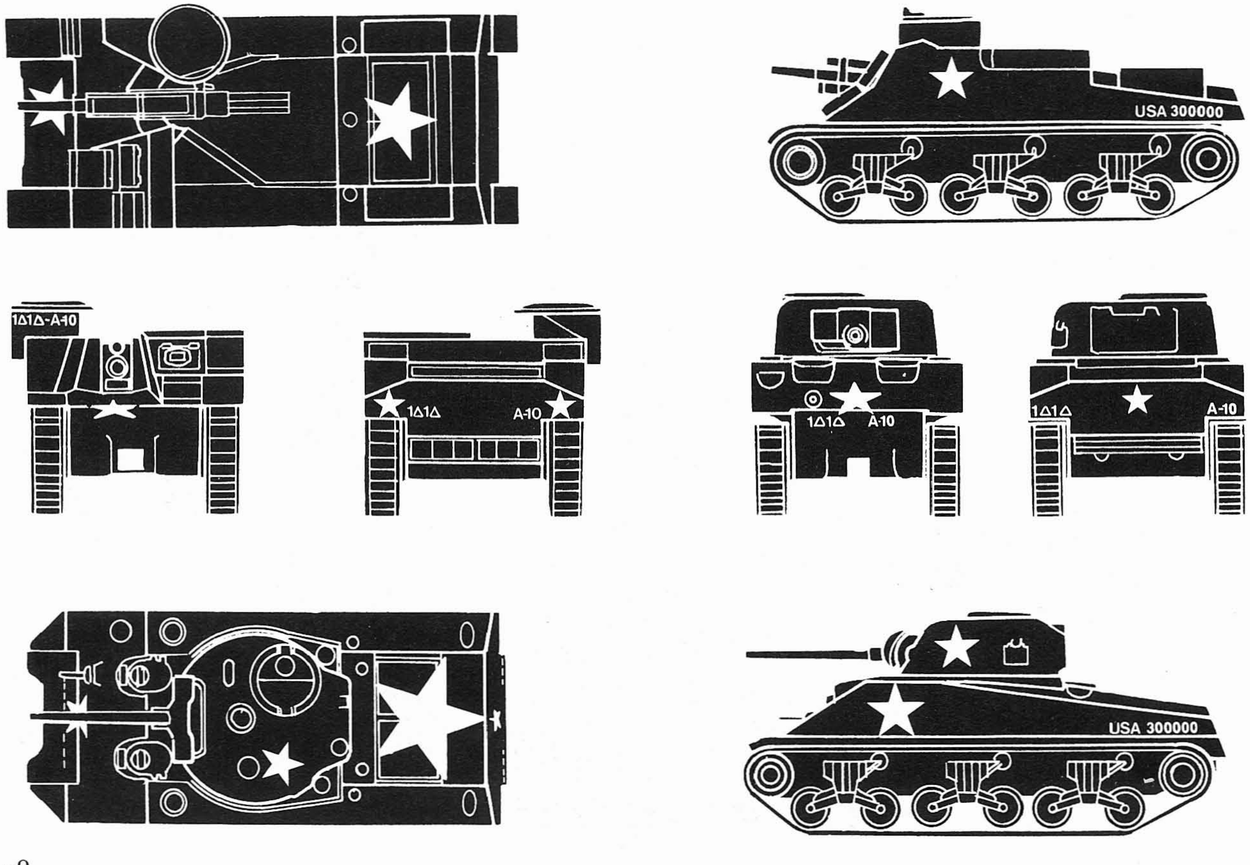
(Right)
An M7B1 HMC of the 14th Armd. Fd. Arty. Bn., 2nd Armd. Div., shows the standard bumper codes. The bridging circle is above it—'26/23': the double-level codes refer to the vehicle with and without an ammunition trailer. The rectangular marking on the lower centre of the bow consists of three coloured bars on a white background. Its meaning is not entirely certain, but it is believed to be related to the similar coloured band insignia used by the 5th Army in Italy and southern France.

many of its tanks displayed the bumper codes on the gun barrel, as the usual hull locations had been covered over by extensive sandbagging.

Army Tank Battalions in the PTO: In the Pacific, Army tank battalions substituted a small geometric sign for the battalion designator on the bumper codes. Those that have been identified are shown on Plate H. In addition, several of the battalions had other insignia. The 44th Tank Bn. in the Philippines had a complicated set of chevron markings which were probably used to distinguish platoons or companies. Some of the HQ tanks seem to have used other symbols taken from standard Army map designs. The 716th Tank Bn. had a standard tactical sign, but also regularly painted a large wolf's head on the hull or turret side as a battalion

Winter whitewash is scrubbed from the side of a half-track of the 489th AAA Battalion. This sort of unit cartoon was very popular (if unauthorised) in many half-track anti-aircraft battalions.

Standard marking sizes and positions: M7 Priest and M4 Sherman.

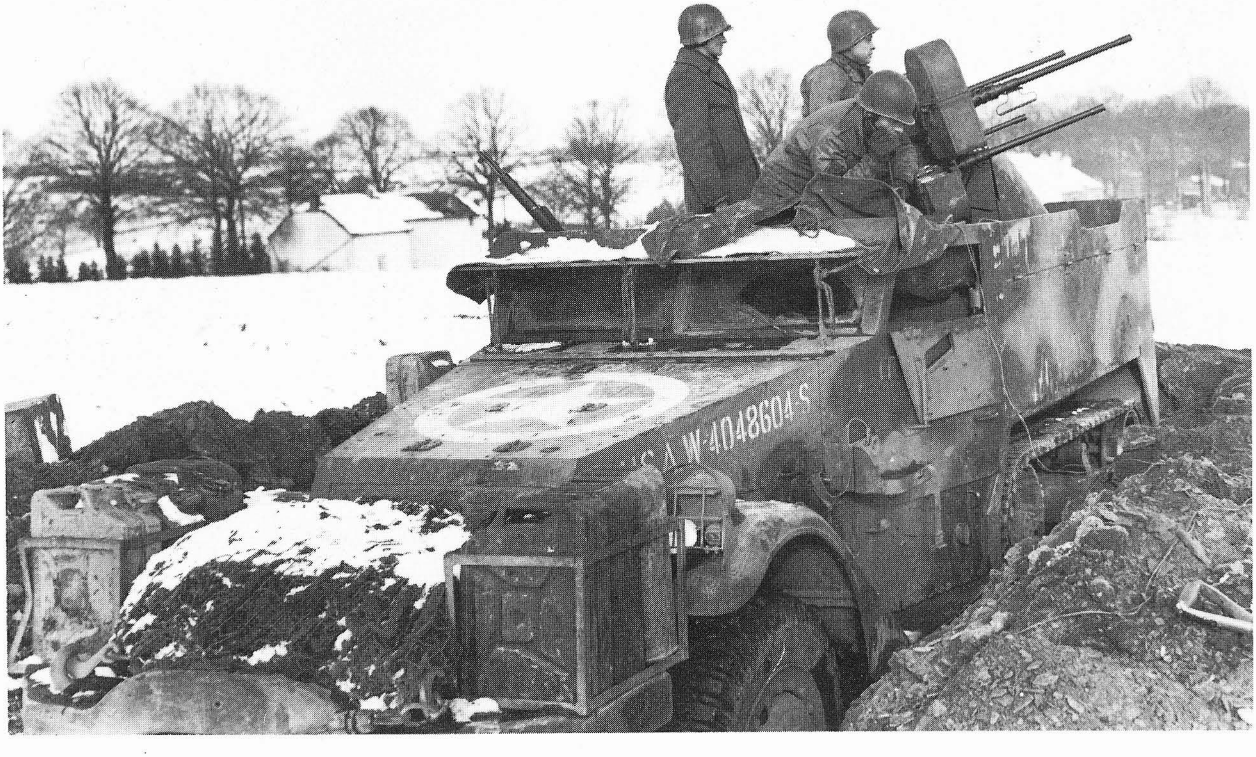


marking. The 754th Tank Bn. used a system of geometric symbols for each company, and small 'hash' marks to distinguish platoons; the vehicle number was carried inside the geometric design. The 775th Tank Bn. on Okinawa used a pair of dice, with the dice numbering apparently indicating platoon and company.

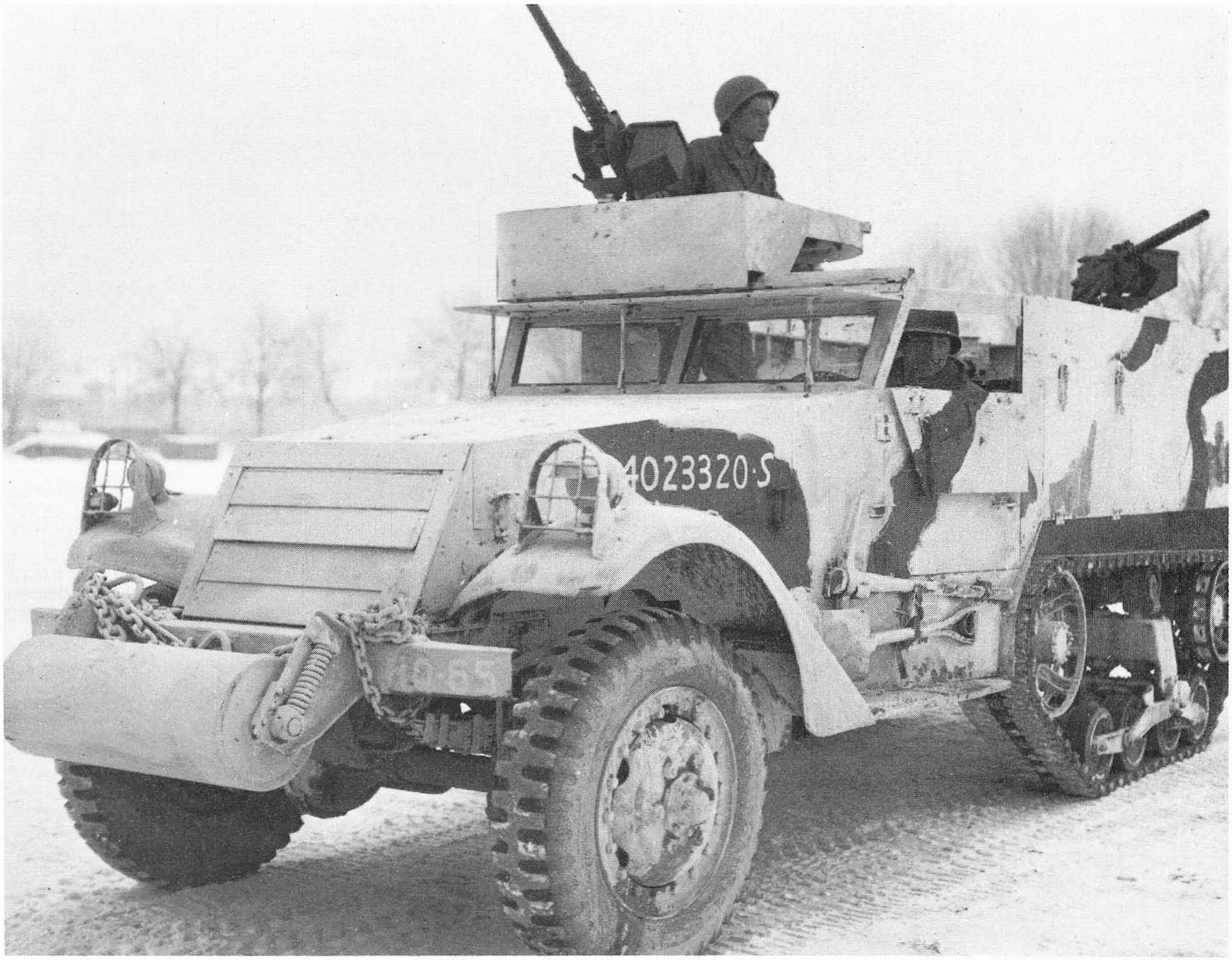
1st Marine Tank Battalion: On Guadalcanal the battalion's tanks used small geometric shapes lodged within turret bands to distinguish companies: B Company, for example, used a square. Vehicle numbers were carried inside the geometric designs. During later fighting, the battalion's markings seem to have consisted solely of a small two-digit tactical number on the turret preceded by the company letter.

2nd Marine Tank Battalion: On Tarawa, C Co., 2 MTkBn. used a hollow yellow triangle on the turret sides of their Stuarts, with individual vehicle numbers inside. During the fighting on Saipan a simpler system consisting of small 'speed' numbers (company letter and two-digit number) was carried on the turret, along with a name starting with the company letter on the hull. A typical example was C-33 CLIPPER.

3rd Marine Tank Battalion: On Guadalcanal, the 3 MTkBn. used small geometric designs like a square, or a square with a coloured circle imposed. The meaning is unknown. During the Bougainville fighting the M3A1 Stuarts had large white squares painted on the turret sides, edged with red and with a red vehicle number inside. All these tanks were named, and most carried a reclining nude cartoon. When re-organised with medium tanks, the battalion adopted the insignia formerly carried by the Shermans of the I Marine Amphibious Corps (IMAC) tank battalion, a snorting elephant. Tanks of this battalion during the 1945 fighting also carried a winged star, derived from the insignia carried on Marine aircraft; and a diamond insignia,



An M16 MGMC of the 447th AAA Battalion photographed during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945 near Neufchateau. This M16 carries temperate camouflage of Black over Olive Drab. The '-S' in the vehicle registration number indicates that the vehicle has been radio-suppressed.



This M2A1 half-track shows the official winter scheme of whitewash with small bands of Olive Drab showing through, but most units skipped the bands and simply covered the whole AFV in whitewash.

derived from the divisional insignia stencilled on Marine personal gear.

4th Marine Tank Battalion: The 4 MTkBn. used the same half-circle sign as was painted on divisional personal stores. This system was similar to the pre-war Army system of adopting a simple geometric shape, and stencilling it on all personal duffle bags when a unit was in transit. The Marines carried the practice one step further, allotting a design to each division, and using it on equipment as well as clothing. Usually the symbol had numbering within it, which could be used to identify sub-units of the division. No regular pattern is evident in the case of the tank battalions. All tanks of the 4 MTkBn. also had personal names, and on Iwo Jima they displayed large tactical numbers.

5th Marine Tank Battalion: The 5 MTkBn. used the small square divisional marking, with two-digit numbers inside. Its tanks were not regularly named.

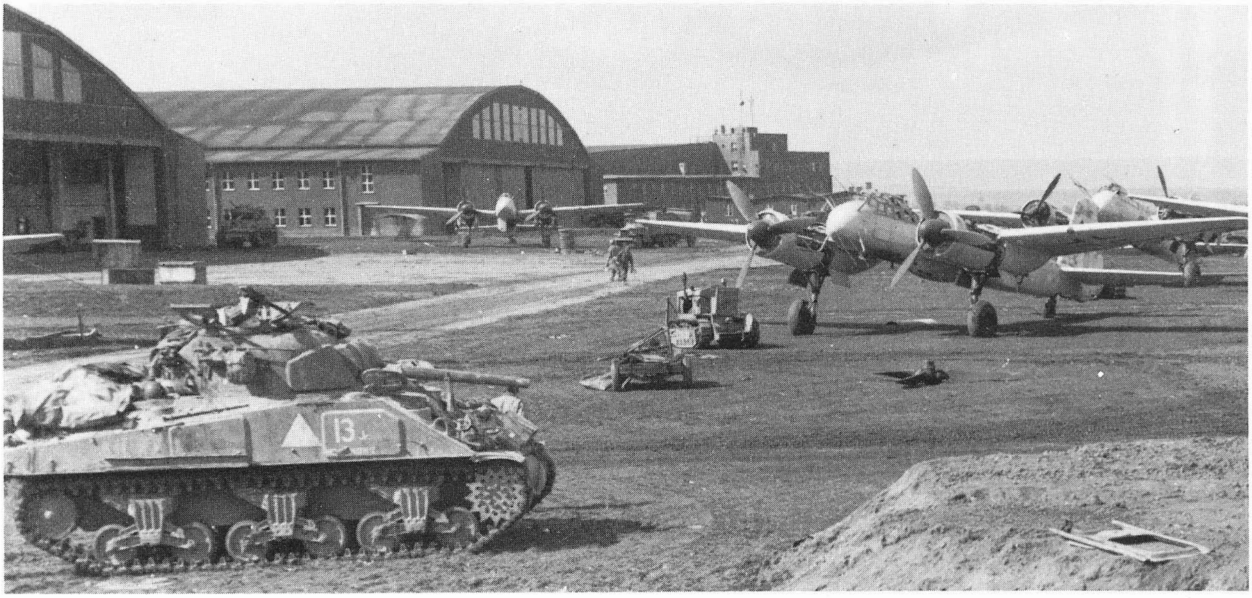
The Plates

A1: Six-Ton Special Tractor; Ft. Meade, Maryland, 1920

This illustration shows a fairly typical example of the five-colour Ordnance patterns applied to a tank. These schemes were short-lived, and were soon replaced by a more prosaic coat of Olive Drab paint.

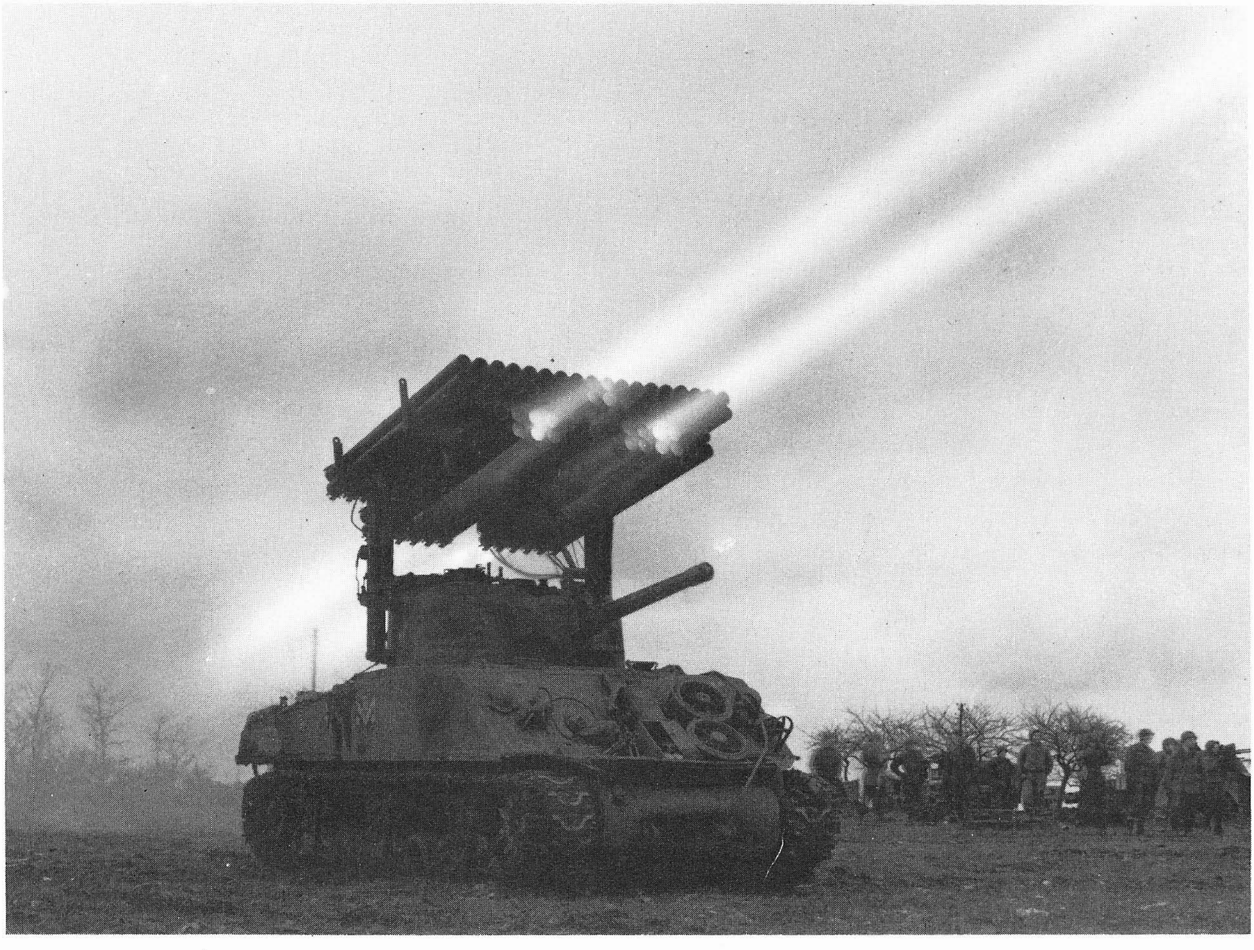
A2: Six-Ton Special Tractor, Mechanized Force; Ft. Eustis, 1931

This tank shows the typical peacetime garb of Army tanks. The turret insignia, a rhomboid 'tank'



An M4A3 of the 15th Tank Bn., 6th Armd. Div. on Lancensalz airfield in Germany in April 1945. The 6th Armd. Div. used large geometric signs on the hull side, probably as a form of company or battalion insignia. Large tactical numbers on the hull side were also typical of the division.

An M4A3 Calliope rocket launcher displays the tactical marking of 2nd Pn., Co. B, 714th Tank Bn., 12th Armd. Div. painted on the hull side. The tank's name was COLD STORAGE, which did not conform to the usual practice of initialling with the company letter.



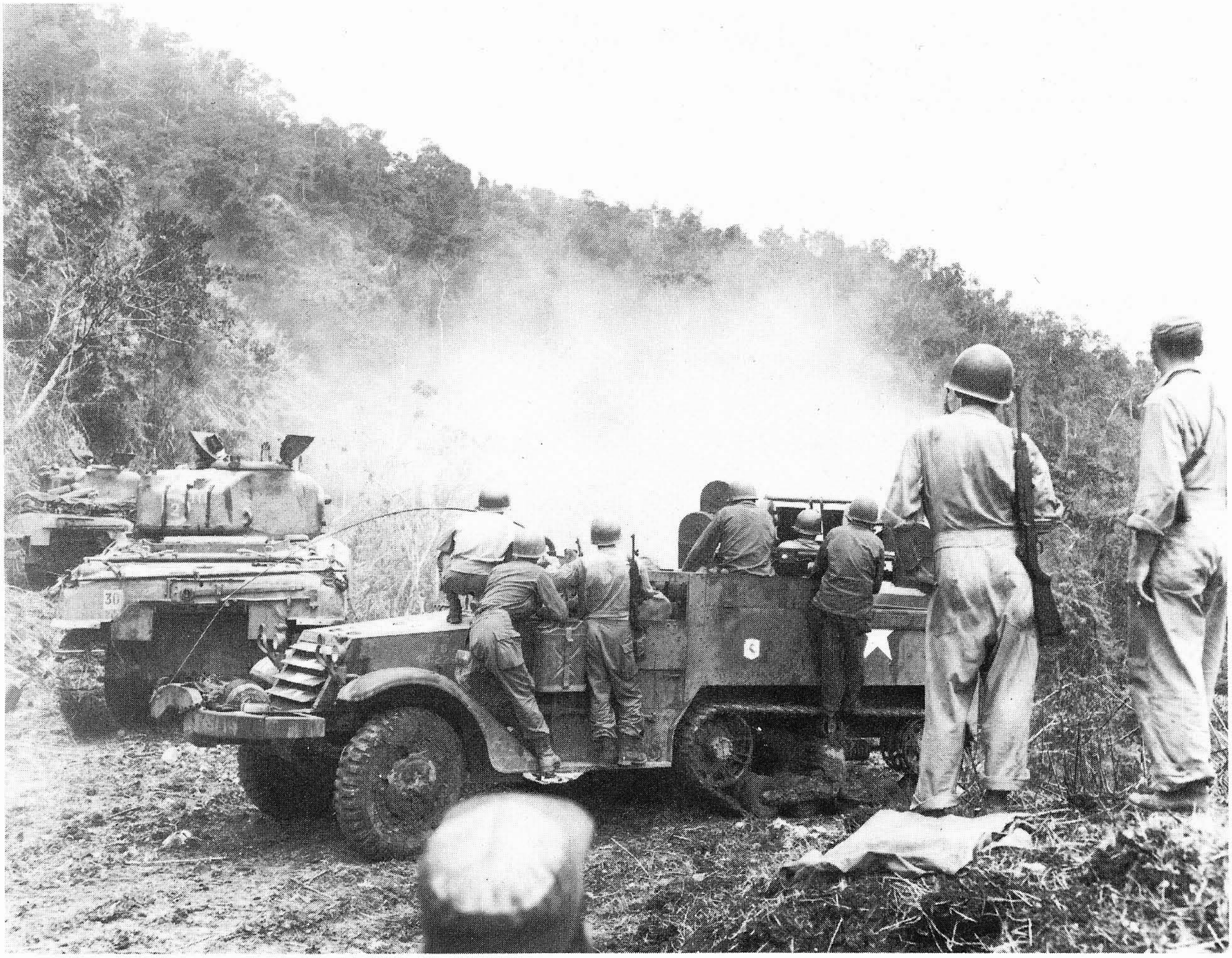
superimposed on crossed rifles, is typical of infantry tank battalions. The number and letter presumably refer to battalion and company.

A3: Six-Ton Special Tractor, US Marine Tank Company; Shanghai, China, 1927

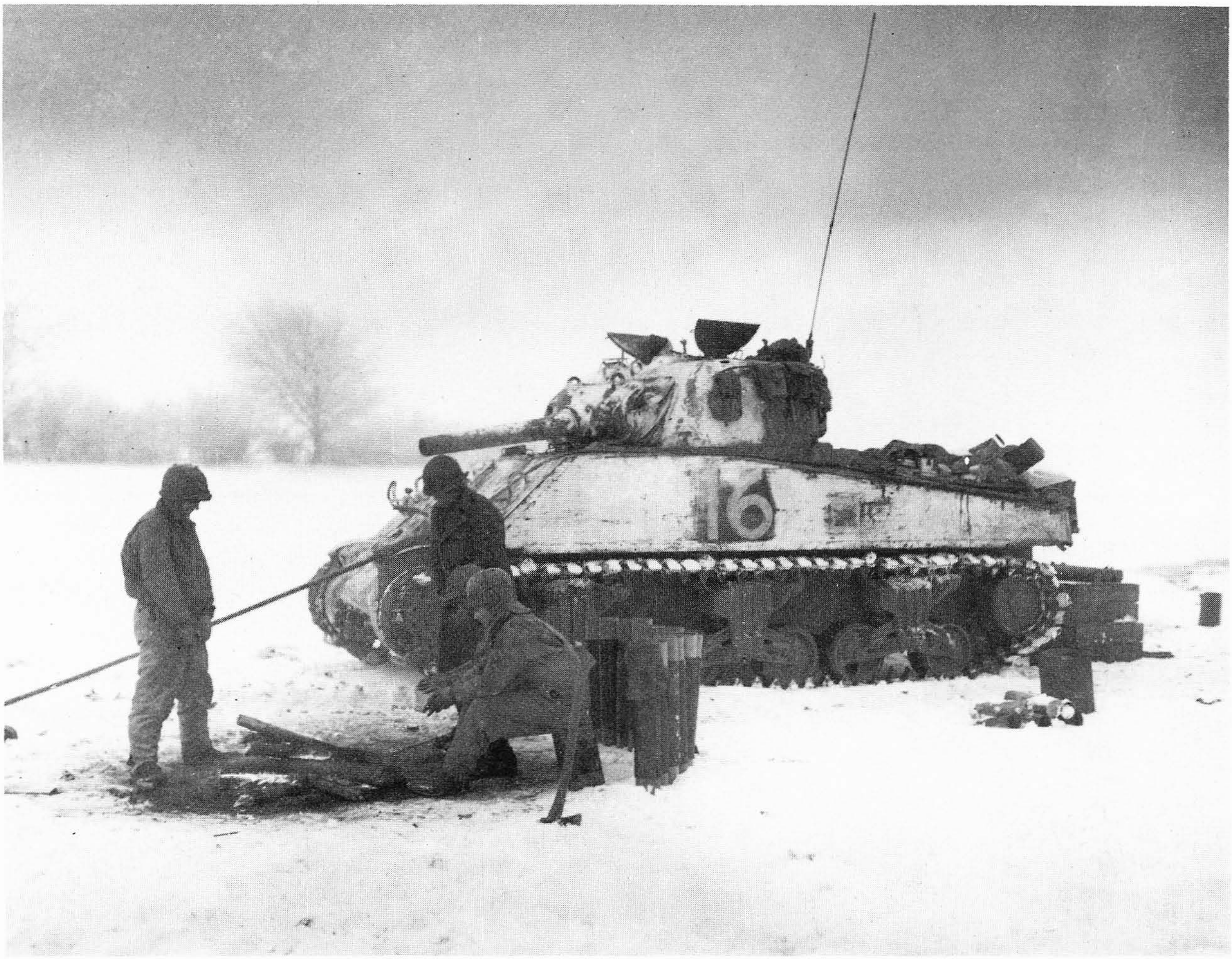
The Marines sent a company of tanks to reinforce their units at the US Legation in China in 1927. These were taken from Army stocks, and some even retained the triangular Tank Force insignia on the bow. However, many had the traditional Marine globe and anchor design painted instead. Some of the tanks had a vehicle number painted on the rear sides of the hull, but on tank No. 8 this was painted instead as a pool 'eight-ball'.

A4: M1A1 Combat Car, 2nd Squadron (Commander), 13th Cavalry; 1939

This side view shows the colourful panoply of cavalry markings on command cars. On the turret side is the traditional guidon, indicating a squadron command car. The top number indicates regiment, the bottom indicates squadron. Behind this is the regimental insignia, shown in detail to the right of the vehicle. A close-up of the brass cavalry plaque carried on the turret side can be seen immediately above the tank. This tank also carried the regiment and squadron number at front and rear. On the turret front this consisted of '2' over '13' between the machine guns; on the rear, '2' was painted on the left engine door and '13' on the right engine door. The other two unit insignia shown here are those of the 1st Cavalry (left), and the erupting volcano crest of the 67th Infantry (right). These were the only other two regimental crests regularly seen painted on tanks during the 1930s.



An M16 of the 209th AAA Bn. supports M4A1 Medium Tanks of the 754th Tank Bn. during fighting in northern Luzon, Philippines, in July 1945. The M16 carries the battalion crest, a centaur. The M4A1s carry the geometric markings common in the 754th—in this case the circle of Co. C with three 'hash' marks, indicating the 3rd Platoon. This marking was carried on the rear of the hull sides and the turret rear.



An M4A3 (105mm) assault gun of the 6th Armored Division. This shows the typically scruffy finish of whitewashed tanks during the early winter fighting in 1945.

B1: M3 Medium Tank, 2nd Armored Division; Ft. Hood, Texas, 1941

The 2nd Armd. Div. adopted a national insignia reversed in colouring from the Army Air Corps insignia. It was carried on the turret rear, hull sides and hull front as seen here. The tactical number, carried on the turret side, consisted of the company letter followed by the vehicle number. Later in the year the division removed these insignia in favour of the plainer star marking.

B2: M3 Medium Tank, 1st Armored Division; Ft. Knox, 1941

In contrast to the 2nd Armd. Div., the 1st Armd. Div. selected the Armored Force triangle as its insignia. This was carried on the hull front, hull roof (in front of turret and on engine deck) and on the hull rear engine access doors. Some US tank battalions used various types of turret bands in the months preceding the war, but the meaning is not entirely clear. They may have been used to distinguish battalions in various armoured regiments. In the 1st Armd. Div. the tactical number was carried on the hull front and rear. In the rear presentation the letter was carried at the extreme left of the sponson rear, and the number at the extreme right.

B3: M3 Medium Tank, 3rd Platoon, E Co., 2nd Bn., 13th Armd. Regt., 1st Armored Division; Morocco, 1942

This Lee shows the standard 1942 Armored Force insignia of a yellow star and turret band, as well as the divisional insignia adopted before Operation 'Torch'. A flag has been added on the glacis plate, as was common on vehicles participating in the initial landings. The flags were removed after the French capitulation.

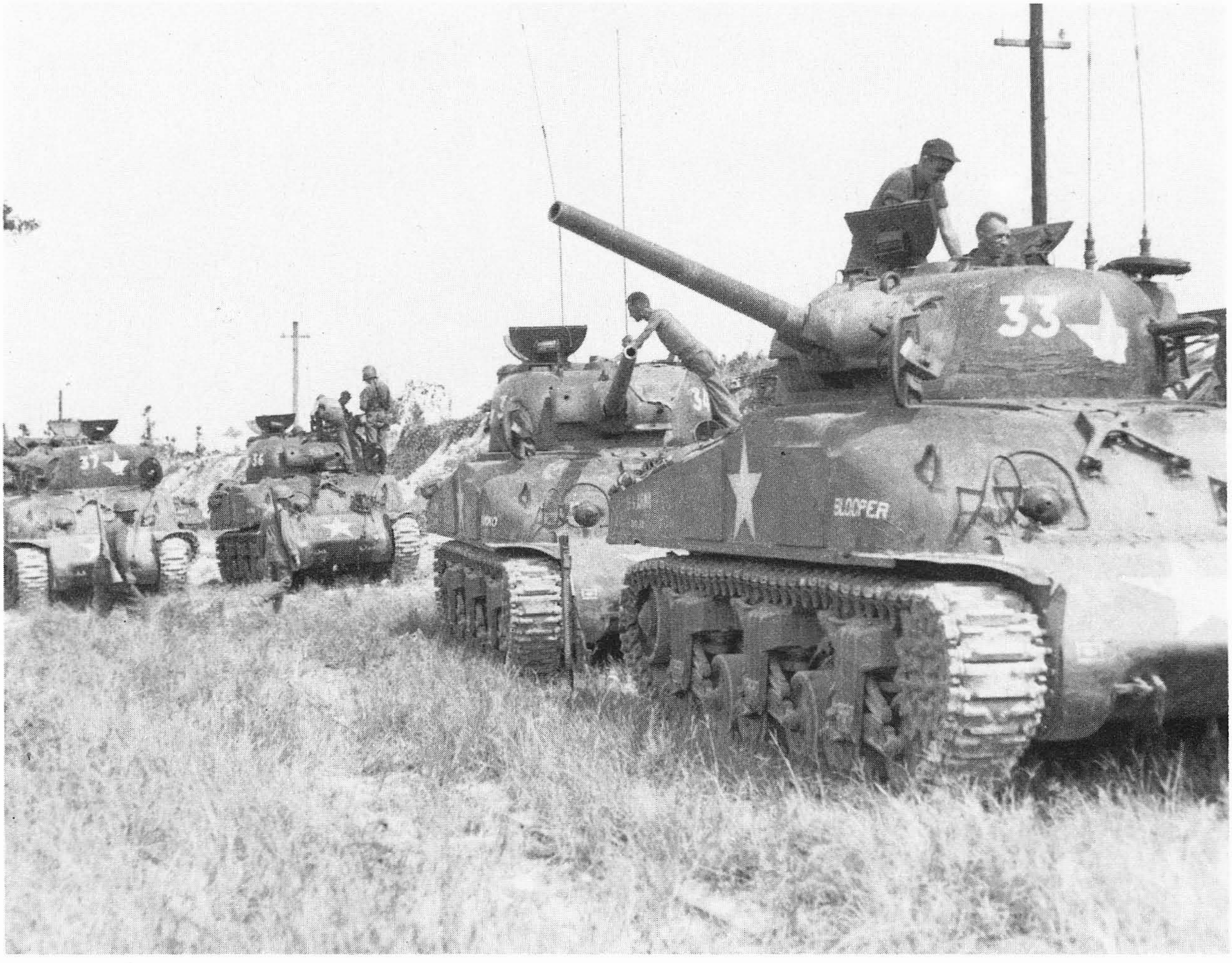
C
40

B4: US National Insignia, 1941–45

Starting in the top row, from left to right, the first insignia is that of the 1st Armd. Div. in 1941. It consists of the Armored Force triangle with a divisional number superimposed. The next is the insignia adopted by the 2nd Armd. Div. for a short time in 1941. Following this is the Armored Force yellow star, specifically that belonging to the Armored Force School at Ft. Knox. Next is the later white star used after the yellow star had been dropped entirely in December 1942; the number indicates 6th Armored Division. The last star in the top row is of a type seen rarely in North Africa on vehicles painted overall Sand; the blue background was added, otherwise the star blended into the Sand background. The second row begins with the standard circled Allied star, common throughout the ETO as an air ID marking after 1943. It is followed by a variation without the stencilling separations: there is no official difference between these stars—it is simply the case that the depot sometimes didn't bother to fill in the gaps left by the stencil! The yellow circled variation was common in Sicily in 1943, stemming from the AFHQ order. The star with orange background was occasionally seen in the ETO, notably during the invasion of southern France. It is not known if it was based on an order, or the product of local initiative. The final star is the 'bloated' style seen in Sicily as a result of the AFHQ order before Operation 'Husky'.

An M3A1 Light Tank of Co. C, 193rd Tank Bn. lodged in a water-filled bomb crater on Makin Atoll in November 1943. Although tank battalions in the Pacific used the Third Group bumper codes for company and lower formations, the battalion codes were usually replaced by geometric designs, in this case a yellow triangle with a red square superimposed.

A platoon of M4 (Composite Hull) Medium Tanks of the 763rd Tank Bn. on Anguar in the Palau group in September 1944. This battalion used a diamond design in a broken rectangle as their insignia, evident here on the front transmission housing. Like many battalions in the Pacific, these tanks display 'speed' numbers on the turret.

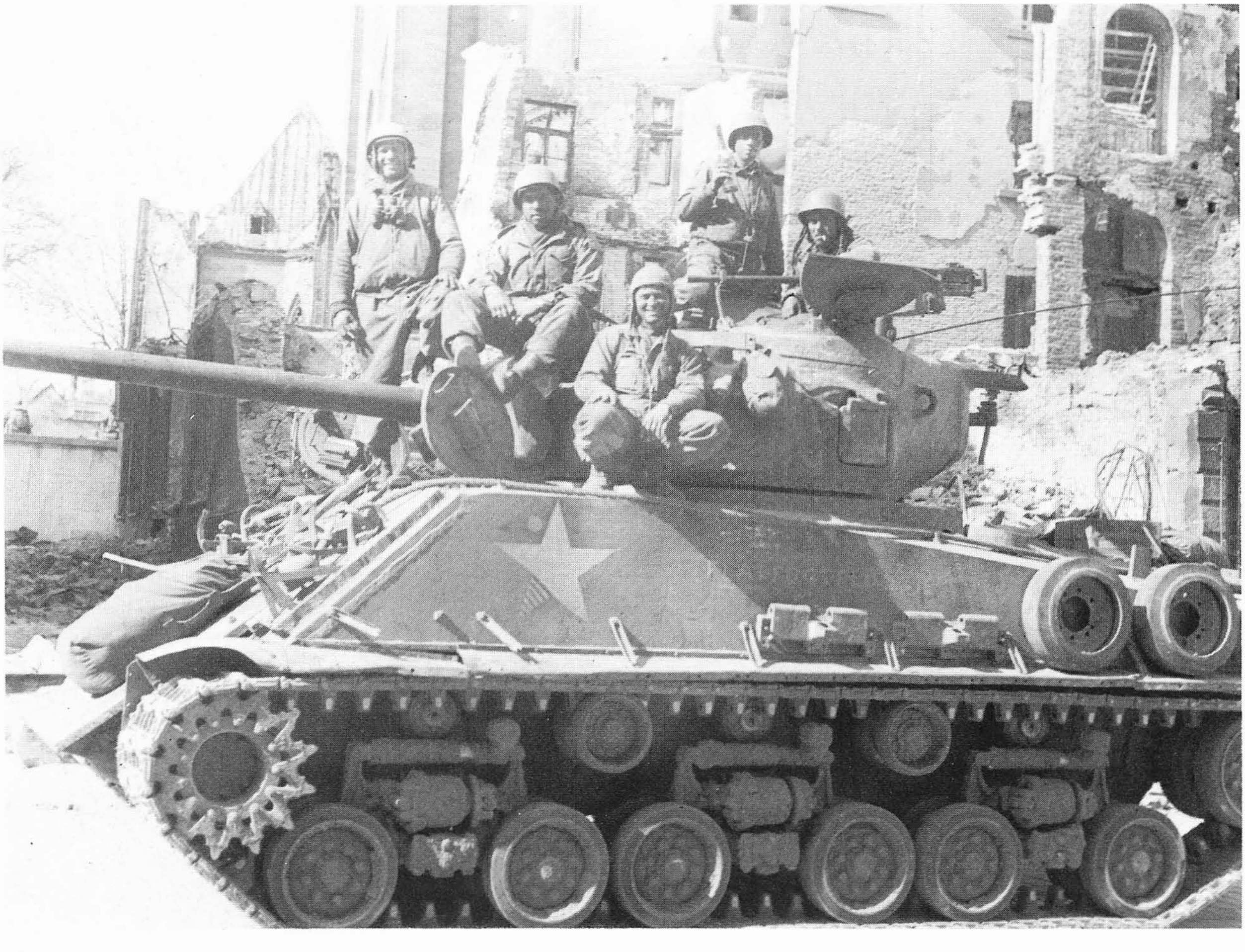


C: FM-5-21 (October 1942) Camouflage Patterns

These illustrations show the suggested camouflage patterns for armoured vehicles laid down in the October 1942 FM-5-21. Three schemes are offered for each vehicle: a temperate scheme at top, a desert scheme in the centre, and a snow scheme below. The temperate scheme consists of Olive Drab and Black, with Black covering most of the upper surfaces. The desert scheme consists of an overall Sand finish, with Earth Yellow on top and disruptive patterns of Black. The snow pattern is white with disruptive patches of Black.

D: Operational Memorandum 34 (March 1943) Camouflage Patterns for Operation 'Husky'

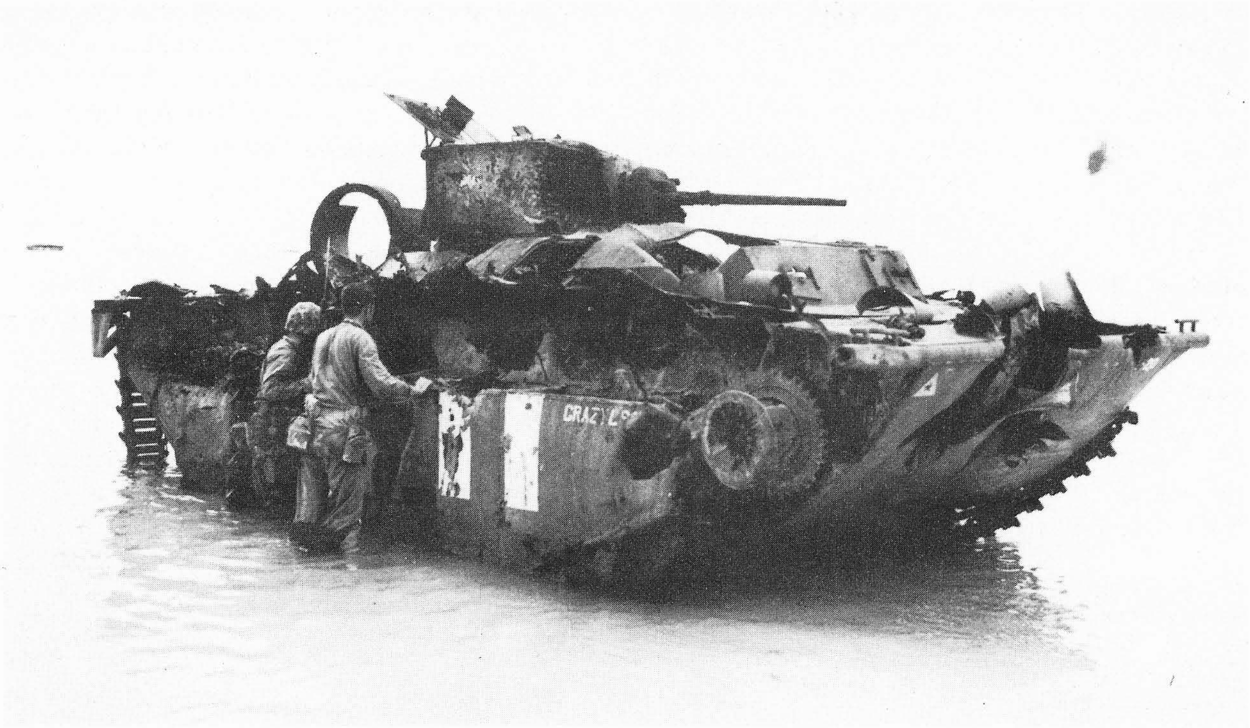
These show the suggested patterns for various types of armoured vehicles participating in the invasion of Sicily in 1943. The AFHQ memorandum suggested the use of either Earth Red or Earth Yellow. The illustrations here are divided between these two options. In practice, most tanks were painted with Earth Yellow patterns.



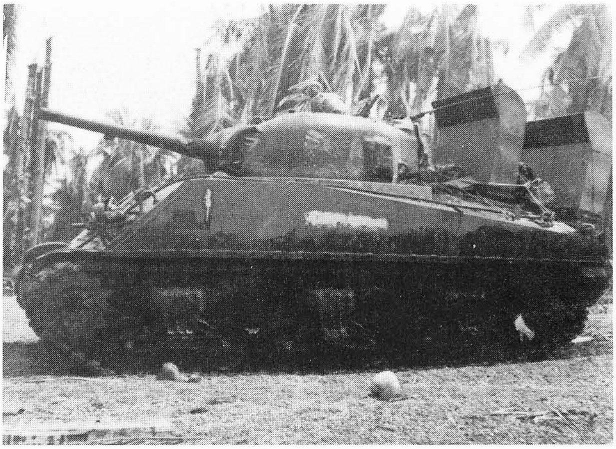
The M4A3E8 of Co. F, 41st Tank Bn., 11th Armd. Div. which was the first 3rd Army tank over the Rhine in March 1945. The divisional marking system consisted of bands painted over various arms of the national star. Each battalion selected a different arm of the star, and the number of stripes indicated the company. The tank's name was FLAT-FOOT-FLOOGIE.

E: FM-5-20B (1943) Camouflage Patterns

These patterns were offered in the 1943 edition of FM-5-20B, and several other Corps of Engineers technical and field manuals. The M4 Sherman pattern at the top was suggested for temperate climates. The colours shown here are Earth Red and Black with white undershading. The Earth Red could be replaced by Field Drab or Earth Brown. A more common colour combination for temperate climates is that shown on the M7 Priest HMC in the centre of the plate, with a scheme of Olive Drab and Black with white undershading. The M10 scheme is a desert scheme of Olive Drab and Sand. The M3 75mm GMC tank destroyer is



This LVT(A)-1 of the 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion was destroyed off the coast of Saipan during the landings there in 1944. It is finished in overall pale blue with two white beach stripes, indicating its destination on Yellow Beach II. The name CRAZY LEGS can be seen on what remains of the side sponson. The triangular insignia on the bow is that of the battalion.

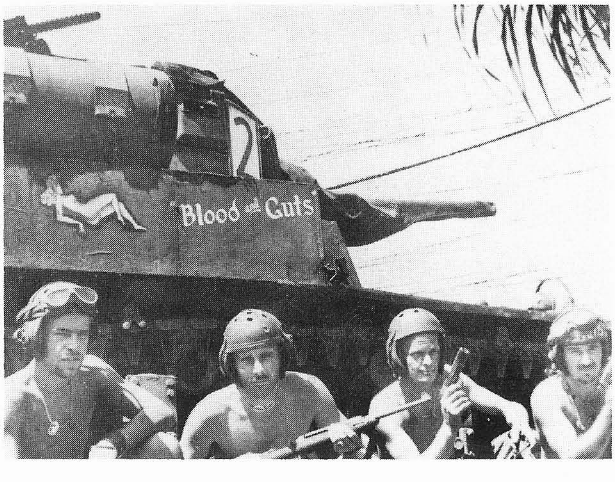


Although the 716th Tank Battalion had an official insignia, the crews preferred a painted wolf's head. Some tanks had this on the hull sides, though in the case of this M4A3 on Cebu in March 1945 it is placed on the turret. (USMC)

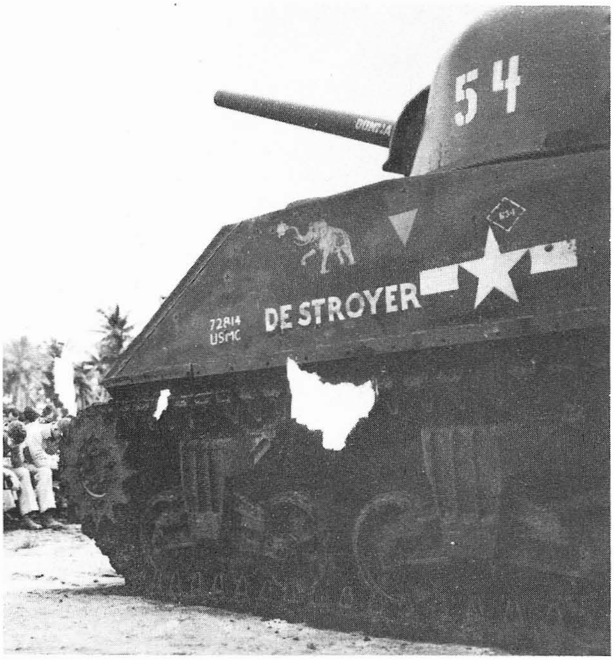
shown in a pattern of Olive Drab and Earth Red for red desert environments. The M2 half-track at the bottom is in a complicated four-colour scheme of Olive Drab, Field Drab and Black with white undershading. The aim of the white undershading on some of these schemes was to break up the vehicle silhouette by disrupting its distinctive shadow patterns. Such undershading was rarely used in the field.

F1: M3A1 Command Car, Gen. G. S. Patton, II Corps; Tunisia, 1943

Patton had an M3A1 Scout Car modified with added armoured shields, radios and machine guns,



The crew of an M3A1 Light Tank of the 3rd Marine Tank Battalion on Bougainville pose in front of their tank. At the time this battalion painted the vehicle number in red within a white geometric sign with red trim. Most of the tanks had cartoon nudes on the hull sides, along with suitably 'macho' names. (USMC)



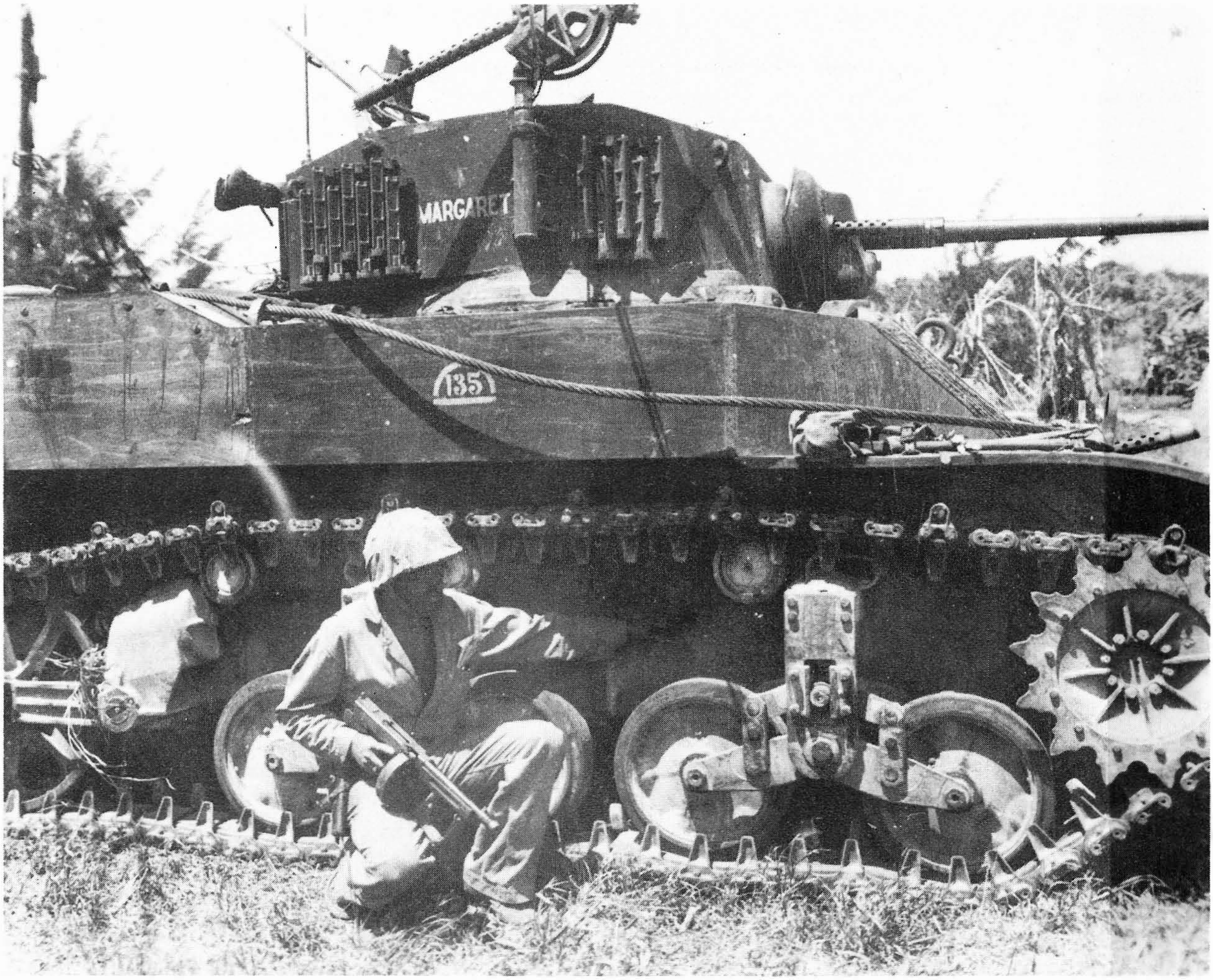
and used it in North Africa. It was originally finished in overall Olive Drab, but in the spring of 1943 it was camouflage-painted with Earth Yellow swatches and had a large circled star added. It carries the II Corps pennant on the left fender and Patton's general's flag on the right fender.

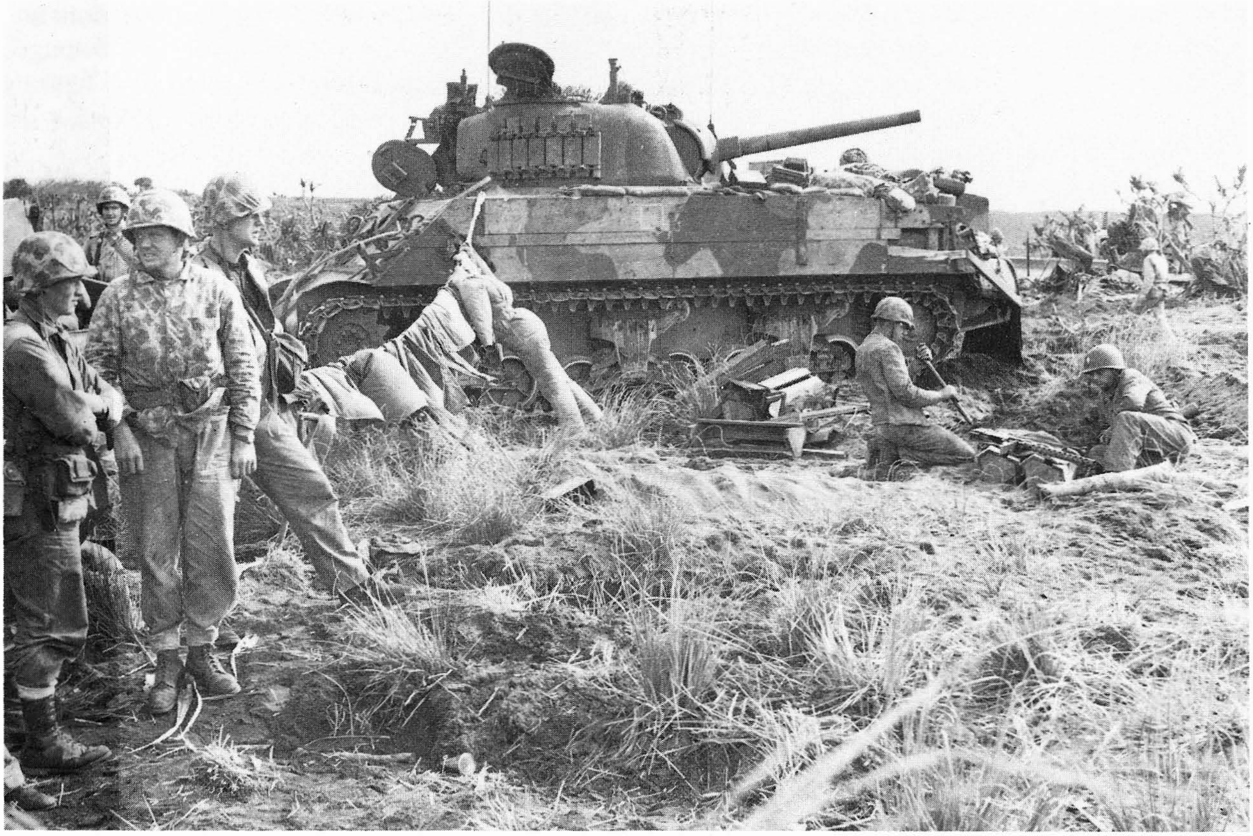
F2: M4A1 Medium Tank, 67th Armd. Regt., 2nd Armored Division; Sicily, 1943

This scheme well illustrates the impact of Operational Memorandum 34. This tank provides a

This M4A2 of the 3rd Marine Tank Battalion in 1945 shows the full range of the battalion's later markings. The unit used the winged star, snorting elephant and diamond insignia all as battalion insignia. The triangular marking is of unknown significance. This tank carries both a semi-official company name (DESTROYER) and another name on the barrel (DONNA). (USMC)

An M5A1 of the Marine 4th Tank Battalion on Saipan in 1944. The battalion insignia, a semi-circle, is evident on the hull side, and the tank name above it on the turret. (USMC)





good example of the Earth Yellow/Olive Drab scheme and the enlarged circle star. The vehicle name ETERNITY suggests that this tank belonged to E Company, 2nd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment. The tactical sign for this unit, an inverted 'T', can be seen below the name.

F3: M4A1 Medium Tank, F Company HQ, 1st Armored Division; Italy, 1944

This scheme shows that the FM-5-20B patterns did actually have some effect. This Sherman is finished in a pattern of Black over Olive Drab with white countershading under the gun barrel. Some 1st Armd. Div. Shermans did have undershading under the front transmission housing and under the hull rear, but there is little evidence that it was ever done under the hull sponson, where it would soon have become caked in dirt, anyway. The markings pattern is the earlier style used while the division was still in the heavy configuration. This vehicle belonged to the 2nd Battalion, whose second company (Co. F) used white barrel markings. The single horizontal band is that of a company HQ tank, with the name FOOLISH FELLA.

Most of the M4A2 tanks of the Marine 5th Tank Battalion on Iwo Jima had pattern-painted three-colour camouflage like these examples. The colours were Sand, Earth Red and Olive Drab. The battalion insignia, a hollow square, is barely evident on the side of the tank. (USMC)

G1: M4 Medium Tank, 37th Tank Bn., 4th Armoured Division; France, 1944

The 37th Battalion tanks all had cartoons and names, as mentioned in the text. On this Sherman of the battalion S-2, Capt. Hunter, the cartoon consists of an Indian head superimposed (as were many of these cartoons) on the Armored Force triangle. This tank still carries the official stars, although these were overpainted in the autumn of 1944 after heavy combat convinced the crews of their dangerous conspicuousness.

G2: M4A3 (76mm), Co. C, 25th Tank Bn., 14th Armored Division; Germany, 1945

Before entering combat, most 14th Armd. Div. tanks were fitted with steel cages to support sandbags protection. This was done with help from an engineer battalion, which finished off the job by camouflaging the tank, sandbags and all, in Olive Drab and Black. The sandbags covered the usual places where bumper codes were carried, and as a result they were transferred to the unusual location on the gun barrel seen here.

G3: M4A2 Medium Tank, IMAC Tank Battalion; Tarawa, 1943

Marine tanks were often plainly marked. This Olive Drab Sherman carries the snorting elephant insignia adopted by the IMAC tank battalion, and carries the name CHINA GAL, indicating it belonged to Co. C. This particular tank saw heavy fighting later on Tarawa: see Vanguard 35, *Armour of the Pacific War.*

H: Unit insignia—see page 25.

Notes sur les planches en couleur

A1, 2, 3 'Le tracteur spécial de six tonnes' était un faux titre donné délibérément aux chars afin de tromper les bureaucrates du gouvernement américain qui, à cette époque-là, ne voulaient pas fournir de fonds pour l'achat de chars! **A1** Modèle de camouflage peint en cinq couleurs et utilisé pendant une brève période à la fin de la première guerre mondiale. **A2** Couleur vert olive; l'insigne de tourelle montre un char en surimpression sur des fusils croisés avec numéro de bataillon au-dessus et lettre de compagnie en-dessous. **A3** Noter l'emblème *US Marine Corps* sur l'avant de la coque; le '*8-ball*' qui servait à identifier le char individuel dans la compagnie, était inscrit sur les flancs de la coque, vers l'arrière. **A4** Le marquage du pennon de cavalerie traditionnel porte le numéro de régiment (en haut) et le numéro de la compagnie (en bas). A droite se trouve l'insigne du régiment. Les deux autres insignes que vous pouvez voir ici sont celles de la *1st Cavalry* (à gauche) et de la *67th Infantry* (à droite).

B1 Lettre de la compagnie et numéro de char sur les flancs de la tourelle; insigne avec étoile national, de forme particulière à cette division, sur les flancs de la coque, l'arrière de la tourelle et l'avant de la coque. **B2** Remarquer la forme anticipée de l'insigne caractéristique d'une division blindée américaine sur l'avant de la coque; il était répété à l'arrière de la coque et sur le toit de la coque devant et derrière la tourelle. **B3** Insigne de tourelle standard de 1942 avec étoiles jaunes et rayures; les symboles de l'unité de chaque côté de l'avant de la coque suivaient le système montré sur la gravure H. **B4** Différentes formes d'insigne national: rangée supérieure, de gauche à droite: *1st Armd. Div.*, 1941; *2nd Armd. Div.*, 1941; *Armored Force School, Fort Knox*, 1942; étoile nationale et numéro de la *6th Armd. Div.*, 1943; disque sur fond bleu utilisé parfois sur les véhicules couleur sable en Afrique du Nord, 1942–43. Rangée inférieure, de gauche à droite: étoile standard des troupes alliées, 1943–45 en styles interrompu et régulier; étoile jaune, Sicile 1943; étoile sur fond orange, sud de la France, 1944; étoile modifiée avec anneau épais, Sicile 1943.

C Octobre 1942, modèles de camouflage réglementaires pour l'Europe, les conditions désertiques et arctiques.

D Mars 1943, modèles de camouflage réglementaires, avec usage optionnel des tons 'rouge terre' et 'jaune terre'.

E Modèles de camouflage de 1943, utilisant des tons vert olive, 'rouge terre', couleur sable et noir, avec ombres blanches sur certaines parties de surfaces inférieures des véhicules. La modèle en bas utilise du vert olive, noir, blanc et du '*field drab*'. La plupart des véhicules utilisaient en pratique du vert olive et du noir, si tant est qu'ils portaient un camouflage.

F1 Ce véhicule de *Gen. Patton* a été modifié avec adjonction de mitrailleuses et blindage supplémentaire; il était peint en vert olive à l'origine puis a reçu un camouflage 'jaune terre' au printemps 1943. Pennon du *II Corps* sur le garde-boue côté gauche et d'un général de division sur celui du côté droit. **F2** Aspect caractéristique en Sicile: camouflage vert olive et 'jaune terre' et insigne avec étoile nationale entourée d'un cercle élargie. Le nom suggère qu'il s'agit de la Compagnie E du bataillon, dont le symbole tactique en forme de 'T' apparaît sous le nom. **F3** Coloris vert olive, noir et blanc. Les raies blanches sur le canon indiquent la compagnie et le bataillon; la raie horizontale sur la tourelle indique le poste de commandement de la compagnie.

G1 Chaque char de ce bataillon portait un marquage avec dessin humoristique et un nom; celui-ci identifiat le *Sherman* de *Captain Hunter*, un officier du poste de commandement du bataillon. **G2** Les marquages en code indiquent la division, le régiment, la compagnie et le char étaient peints normalement au bas de l'avant de la coque. Etant donné la protection supplémentaire des sacs de sable posés par cette unité et qui cachaient les codes, ceuz-ci ont été repeints sur le long du canon. Remarquer la peinture de camouflage sur la surface des sacs de sable. **G3** Le dessin humoristique de l'éléphant identifiait le bataillon; l'initiale 'C' dans le nom du char identifiait la compagnie C. Ce *Sherman* particulier a été impliqué dans de durs combats sur *Tarawa*: veuillez vous reporter à *Vanguard 35*, *Armour of the Pacific War*.

H Vous trouverez à la page 25 des légendes explicites en anglais sur ces insignes d'unité.

Farbtafeln

A1, 2, 3 Panzer wurden absichtlich als 'Sechs-Tonnen-Spezial-traktoren' bezeichnet, um amerikanische Bürokraten zu täuschen, die nicht bereit waren, Panzer zu finanzieren. **A1** Dieses fünffarbige Tarnmuster wurde zu Anfang des 1. Weltkriegs vorübergehend verwendet. **A2** Einfache Olivfarben; die Geschützinsignien bestehen aus einem Panzer über gekreuzten Gewehren. Darüber befindet sich die Bataillonsnummer, darunter der Buchstabe der Kompanie. **A3** Beachten Sie das US Marine Corps-Emblem vorn auf dem Rumpf. Der '8-ball', der den einzelnen Panzer der Kompanie bezeichnet, befindet sich hinten auf den Rumpfseiten. **A4** Die traditionelle Kavallerieflagge hat oben die Regimentsnummer und unten die Kompanienummer. Rechts sehen Sie das Regimentswappen. Die beiden anderen, hier gezeigten Wappen sind die der 1st Cavalry (links) und der 67th Infantry (rechts).

B1 Auf den Geschützseiten befindet sich der Buchstabe der Buchstabe der Kompanie sowie die Panzernummer. Die Insignien des Nationalsterns, die für diese Division ungewöhnlich sind, tauchen auf den Rumpfseiten, hinten auf dem Geschütz sowie vorn auf dem Rumpf auf. **B2** Beachten Sie diese frühe Insignienform der amerikanischen Panzerdivision vorn auf dem Rumpf. Sie finden sie ausserdem hinten auf dem Rumpf und auf dem Rumpfdach vor und hinter dem Geschütz. **B3** Standard Geschützinsignien mit gelben Sternen und Streifen aus dem Jahre 1942. Die Symbole der Einheit auf beiden Seiten des vorderen Rumpfs sind so ähnlich wie die auf Platte H. **B4** Verschieden Nationalinsignien: Oberste Reihe, von links nach rechts: 1st Armd. Div., 1941; 2nd Armd. Div., 1941; Armored Force School, Fort Knox, 1942; Nationalstern mit Nummer der 6th Armd. Div., 1943; in Nordafrika wurde 1942–3 auf sandfarbenen Fahrzeugen manchmal die blaue Platte als Hintergrund verwendet. Unterste Reihe, von links nach rechts: der Standardstern der Alliierten, 1943–45 in unterbrochener und vollständiger Form; gelber Stern, Sizilien 1943; Stern auf orangem Hintergrund, Südfrankreich 1944; Sternvariation mit dickem Ring, Sizilien 1943.

C Reguläre Tarnmuster für Europa, die Wüste und die Antarktik, Oktober 1942.

D Reguläre Tarnmuster, März 1943; 'erdrote' bzw. 'erdgelbe' Farbtöne standen wahlweise zur Verfügung.

E Tarnmuster aus dem Jahre 1943, olivfarbene, 'erdrote', sandfarbene und schwarze Farbtöne sowie weiss auf verschiedenen Teilen der Fahrzeugunterseite. Unten sehen Sie oliv, schwarz, weiss und 'field drab'. Falls die Fahrzeuge überhaupt mit Tarnfarbe gestrichen wurde, verwendete man in der Praxis meistens oliv und schwarz.

F1 Das Fahrzeug von Gen. Patton war mit zusätzlichen Maschinengewehren und Geschützen versehen. Es war ursprünglich oliv, wurde im Frühjahr 1943 mit 'erdgelber' Tarnfarbe gestrichen. Auf dem vorderen Kotflügel die Flagge des II Corps, auf dem anderen die eines Generalmajors. **F2** Typisch für Sizilien: olivfarbene und 'erdgelbe' Tarnfarbe sowie ein grosser Kreis um die Insignien des Nationalsterns. Der Name lässt auf die E-Kompanie des Bataillons schliessen, dessen T-förmiges Symbol unterhalb des Namens zu sehen ist. **F3** In oliv, schwarz und weiss. An den weissen Streifen am Geschützrohr erkennt man Kompanie und Bataillon. Der horizontale Streifen am Geschütz bezeichnet das Hauptquartier der Kompanie.

G1 Jeder Panzer dieses Bataillons war mit dem Namen sowie einer Karikatur versehen. Dies ist der Sherman des Captain Hunter, ein Offizier des Bataillon-Hauptquartiers. **G2** Dieser Code steht für die Division, das Regiment und die Kompanie sowie den Panzer und wurde normalerweise vorn unten auf den Rumpf gemalt. Der Code taucht noch einmal am Geschützrohr auf, da diese Einheit als zusätzliche Schutzmassnahme Sandsäcke verwendete, die den Code verdeckten. Beachten Sie die Tarnfarbe auf den Sandsäcken. **G3** Die Elefantenkarikatur bezeichnete das Bataillon; der Buchstabe 'C' am Anfang des Panzernamens wies auf die C-Kompanie hin. Dieser Sherman hier stand auf Tarawa unter schwerem Gefecht: Siehe *Vanguard 35*, *Armour of the Pacific War*.

H Die Erläuterungen auf Seite 25 bezüglich dieser Insignien (in Englisch) erklären sich von selbst.

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Avec annotations en francais sur les planches en couleur

Mit Aufzeichnungen auf deutsch uber die Farbtafeln

(1) British 7th Armoured Division 1940–45
(3) US 1st Infantry Division 1939–45
(4) Fallschirmpanzerdivision 'Hermann Goring'
(6) The Lee/Grant Tanks in British Service
(8) US 1st Marine Division 1941–45
(13) The Churchill Tank
(14) The T-34 Tank
(15) The Sherman Tank in British Service 1942–45
(16) The Panzerkampfwagen III
(17) The Stuart Light Tank Series
(18) The Panzerkampfwagen IV
(19) Armour of the Middle East Wars 1948–78
(20) The Tiger Tanks
(21) The PzKpfw V Panther
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(32) The SdKfz 251 Half-Track
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(34) M113 Series
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(36) Long Range Desert Group
(37) Modern Soviet Combat Tanks
(38) Mechanised Infantry
(39) US Armour Camouflage and Markings 1917–45
(40) US Light Tanks 1944–84: M24 Chaffee, M41 Walker Bulldog and M551 Sheridan

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